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EU to give \$65m to PNA in 1996
GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday signed a donor accord with the European Union (EU) for \$65 million in aid to help build village schools and buy computers, officials said. It was the first agreement for aid in 1996 and was hailed by Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath as "proof of the growing support from the European Union for the Palestinians." He signed the agreement with Thomas Dupla, the head of the EU representation in East Jerusalem. It provides for \$17.5 million for new village schools, and \$18 million towards universities and higher education in the territories, as well as five million for computers and equipment. Some \$13 million will go towards local government services, and there were several other projects. The PNA is hoping the Palestinians will also share in \$12 billion of aid and loans to be announced at a conference in Barcelona on Nov. 27 and 28.

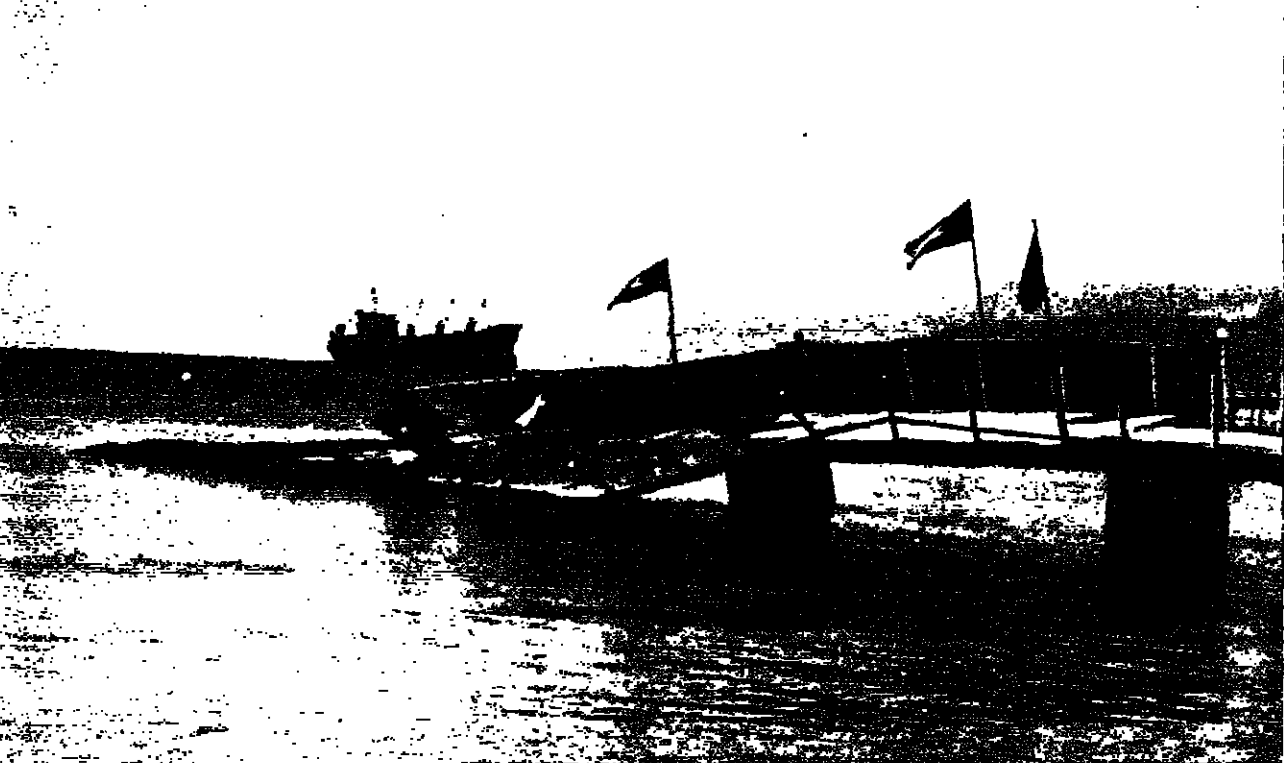
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A jetty smashed in Wednesday's quake in the Gulf of Aqaba (photo by Abraham Varajian).

Quake jolts Mideast; 8 killed

Combined agency dispatches

A POWERFUL earthquake shook the Middle East from Lebanon to the borders of Sudan at dawn on Wednesday, causing eight deaths, dozens of injuries and damage to buildings in Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan and Egypt. Four people including the hotel manager were killed and 10 people were injured when the four-storey bar-cada hotel collapsed in the Egyptian port of Nuweibeh, near the centre of the earthquake in the Gulf of Aqaba, security sources said. The dead included hotel manager Nabil Fouad Zaki, an Egyptian driver and a Lebanese traveller. The fourth body is still under the rubble and has not been identified, they said. The lobby of the Hilton Hotel in Nuweibeh collapsed and other parts of the Hilton and the Helnan hotels were damaged. The Hilton doctor, Tarek

Fouda, was brought to Cairo in serious condition, and two Egyptians were injured in the nightclub of the Helnan, the sources added.

The earthquake damaged the terminal and the quays at Nuweibeh port, the main terminal for marine traffic to Jordan, and it cracked the control tower of Sharm Al Sheikh airport, near the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, it said. Seismic observatories disrupted the strength of the earthquake offering estimates ranging from 5.7 to 7.2 on the Richter Scale. But the centre was far from heavily populated areas, apparently out at sea about 110 kilometres south of the port of Aqaba. Two people died of heart attacks — an Israeli tourist aged 67 in Eilat and a Jordanian man in nearby Aqaba. In Egypt, two men were killed when they jumped off balconies in panic, one in the

1 dead at Aqaba; aftershocks felt

By Ghaila Alul

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One person was killed and 19 others were injured in the earthquake which struck the southern Gulf of Aqaba at 6:15 a.m. Wednesday. Agence France-Presse (AFP) quoted hospital sources in Aqaba as saying that Jamil Atallah Ahmad, 72, died after suffering a heart attack following the quake, which Jordanian scientists said measured up to 6.2 on the Richter scale. The Globe Institute at Strasbourg in France told AFP that the earthquake measured up to 7.1 on the Richter scale and was felt throughout Israel, Egypt, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia (see separate story).

The earthquake was followed by several aftershocks which were less powerful, the head of Jordan's Natural Resources Authority, Fakhri Dagehstani, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra. Israel Radio reported that later on Wednesday, an aftershock measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale hit the Dead Sea resort at Eilat, but did not cause any damages. Nineteen people were taken to hospital in the Aqaba region. Most of them were suffering from fractures and shocks, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) in Aqaba said in a statement. "Injuries were mostly caused from fear of the quake, especially in Aqaba which was the hardest hit as it was the nearest city to the

Parliament called to session on Dec. 2

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday issued a Royal Decree convening Parliament on Dec. 2 for a session that is expected to focus on laws regarding parliamentary elections and labour.

The opening session will be held next month with a traditional speech the Monarch will deliver outlining his government's policy.

"We Al Hussein I, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Paragraph A of Article 78 of the Constitution, decree that Parliament is called to convene its regular session as of Saturday Dec. 2, 1995," the Royal Decree said.

Parliament went into recess Sept. 19 after a three-month special summer session in which the legislature changed a number of laws to reflect the 1994 peace treaty signed with Israel.

Lawmakers lifted a decades-old boycott of Israel and introduced sweeping changes that made it easier for foreigners to invest in the Kingdom.

Parliament sources quoted by AP said priority will be given to modifying laws on parliamentary elections and on regulating the labour market.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday receives the newly-appointed Saudi ambassador to Jordan, Abdullah Soudairi, at the Royal Court (photo by Boghos)

Regent stresses need for better Arab ties, action

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday underlined the need for strengthening inter-Arab relations and reviving collective Arab action, particularly that the current stage of Arab history requires cooperation to ensure further progress for the Arab people.

Speaking at a meeting with the newly appointed Saudi ambassador to Jordan, Sheikh Abdullah Soudairi, at the Royal Court, the Regent lauded strong and solid foundation for relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Sheikh Soudairi conveyed to the Regent greetings from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to His Majesty King Hussein and the Regent and wishing the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

The ambassador praised Jordanian efforts restoring Arab solidarity and giving momentum to regional economic progress.

Also on Wednesday the Regent received a message from King Fahd in reply to his cable while flying in Saudi Arabian air space on his way to a recent visit to Bahrain. The Regent also received

at his office Wednesday Mr. Majed Jashi, the Bahraini agriculture minister, and chairman and members of the executive board of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), which ended a meeting in Amman Wednesday. He urged the board to help boost the AOAD's activities towards enabling the Arab countries to increase their food production and ensure food security. The meeting was attended by Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and the Regent's adviser Mohammad Saqqaf.

Bosnia deal raises optimism

Combined agency dispatches

RUMP YUGOSLAVIA's ruling elite on Wednesday hailed a long-awaited Bosnia peace accord as an "historic victory" but Serbian nationalists cried betrayal and many Belgrade residents doubted it would make much difference.

The leaders of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia initialled the agreement in Dayton, Ohio, on Tuesday after three weeks of exhaustive negotiations aimed at putting an end to four years of bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia.

"Peace" was the simple banner headline carried by several local newspapers, alongside pictures of a smiling Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Rump Yugoslavia's president, and Montenegro.

"(The Dayton agreement) is a big and historic victory of peace," Milomir Milic, secretary-general of Serbia's ruling Socialist Party, told Tanjug news agency. European powers, diplo-

matically eclipsed by the U.S.-brokered peace deal on Bosnia, sought with barely concealed pique to win back a share of the military and economic limelight in its implementation.

While cautiously welcoming the accord announced amid much fanfare by U.S. President Bill Clinton, French leaders in particular were almost openly trying to point out that, although their efforts failed for three long years, the end result could not have been reached without them.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette expressed thinly-veiled bitterness at Washington's diplomatic coup.

It is not an American peace which was obtained in Bosnia," he told French radio. "You cannot say that, even if President Clinton and the Americans have tried to attract coverage onto them."

"Our problems and our regret is that Europe as such has not been present. It is true, it is a failure for the

Europe Union. But a certain number of countries were strongly committed, France the first," he said, recalling that 53 French soldiers have been killed and 300 injured in four years of war.

A key achievement in asserting Europe's role in the peace was confirmed Wednesday afternoon when Washington agreed that the signing ceremony for the historic accord would take place in Paris.

France, which has provided the majority of troops to the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on the ground in Bosnia and played a key diplomatic role over the years, had long assumed it would "get the honour."

But immediately after Mr. Clinton's Rose Garden announcement, an embarrassing confusion emerged over the site of the signing ceremony, which will inevitably reflect positively on whichever country hosts it.

Relief finally came Wednesday afternoon when White House spokesman

Michael McCurry announced that the formal ceremony for the signing of the Bosnian peace agreement will take place in Paris.

Other European capitals are also bidding to host conferences linked to the accord: London, Brussels, Bonn and Moscow are all in the frame to organise something to mark their contribution to peace.

French President Jacques Chirac was also keen to point out that, while reaching an agreement in Dayton was one thing, implementing it on the ground was quite another.

"Stopping the war on the ground is one thing, we must now put a stop to it in people's heads and hearts," the president said. "This is a step towards peace, it's still not peace," he added.

Other European leaders added to the note of caution among European leaders about the peace accord. Greek President Constantinos Stefanopoulos said he hoped it was

(Continued on page 7)

No large-scale plot in Rabin killing - Shohat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — In a surprising turnabout, the Israeli police minister said Wednesday there was no large-scale conspiracy to kill Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and that only the gunman and his brother were involved in the plot.

In Parliament, Rabin successor Shimon Peres won broad approval — 62-8 with 38 abstentions — for his new government as legislators demonstrated unity in the wake of the assassination.

Mr. Peres told legislators his main mission was to bring about a comprehensive peace by the turn of the millennium, creating "a Middle East without violence, bloodshed, terror, wars and without the reason for all this — poverty" (see separate story).

Police Minister Moshe Shohat, speaking to reporters in a parliament hallway after the vote, backed off earlier assertions that Mr. Rabin was killed by a group of people who meticulously planned the Nov. 4 attack.

"I don't think there was a conspiracy (to kill Rabin)," said Shohat, but did not explain his change of view. Mr. Shohat said there was a

group of Jewish militants associated with confessed assassin Yigal Amir and his brother, Hagai. The inner circle, he said, consisted of "the two brothers (with aims to) assassinate the prime minister, and probably one or two others that were not active."

"The larger group were planning to harass or kill Palestinians, especially police officers," Shohat said.

The head of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, reportedly told a government commission of inquiry into Rabin's death this week that he believed Amir was a lone assassin.

In all, five people remained in detention Wednesday in connection with Rabin's death — the Amir brothers, Yigal Amir's former girlfriend, Margalit Harsheli, Yigal Amir's army buddy Dror Adani, and a soldier in an elite unit, Eric Schwartz.

A sixth suspect arrested this week, Avshalom Weinberg, was accused of planning to attack Palestinian prisoners released under the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

Hundreds held in Pakistani sweep

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistani police have detained hundreds of religious militants and Afghans in a nationwide crackdown on religious and political violence and after the Egyptian embassy bomb blast, officials said.

More than 200 religious militants were detained nationwide in a move officials said was not directly linked to the car bombing that destroyed the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad on Sunday killing 17 people.

Press reports said about 80 Afghans had been picked up in Islamabad over the embassy blast and that five Afghan employees of the embassy were missing after the blast.

Nasim Akhtar Khan, a Pakistani, died in hospital Wednesday from multiple injuries he suffered in the blast, medical sources said, taking the death toll from Sunday's attack to 17 with another 60 injured.

Three Egyptian fundamentalist groups have claimed responsibility for the blast. Riaz Pirzada, of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP),

tioned. Three Egyptian groups claimed responsibility for the blast — Jamaa Islamiyah, Al Jihad and the International Justice Group. Egyptian experts are in Pakistan helping with the inquiry.

Police singled out Pakistani fundamentalists in their crackdown on domestic troubles.

The Urdu language mass circulation newspaper Jang claimed the nationwide crackdown captured "hundreds" of leaders and workers of religious bodies and religion-based political groups.

"It is a preventive detention of those involved in sectarianism and regarded a threat to public peace," said a senior police official in Punjab province, where most arrests were made.

Pakistan has a long history of sectarian tension, with frequent outbreaks of religious violence. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto ordered the sweep following the murder of the father of a parliamentary deputy, Riaz Pirzada, of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

UAE, Iran fail to agree on dispute over islands

DOHA (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran have failed to agree on a course for settling a long-standing conflict over three strategic islands in the Gulf, UAE delegates said Wednesday.

The four-day talks held in Doha to resolve the dispute over the islands of Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunb were the first since September 1992 when a session in Abu Dhabi broke up without agreement.

Iran and the UAE were unable to find "a basis of understanding" for an agenda outlining the points to be negotiated for settling the conflict, UAE delegation head Khalifa Shahine Al Merri told the official UAE news agency WAM.

Mr. Merri denounced what he called Iran's "lack of flexibility" during the talks here.

He charged that the "Iranian side categorically refused" to help draw up an

agenda which he said Doha had proposed when it invited the two sides to meet in Qatar.

Tehran argued instead that "the goal of the meeting was not to develop an agenda," he said.

Mr. Merri renewed his country's call "to settle the conflict peacefully or take the conflict over the three islands to the International Court of Justice at the Hague" if the two sides fail to reach an understanding.

When the talks began Saturday, the UAE proposed a four-point agenda demanding first Iran's withdrawal from the two Tunbs. It also asked for implementing the accord the two countries struck in 1971 calling for shared administration of Abu Musa until its sovereignty is determined.

Heading the Iranian team here was Hussein Sadeqi, a senior foreign ministry official, but there was no im-

mediate comment from him or his team.

Tehran has always insisted its sovereignty over the three islands, which the Iranian army occupied in 1971, was "not negotiable," although it was ready to clear up "misunderstanding" about the administration of Abu Musa.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said in Tehran Monday that the foreign ministers of the UAE and Iran could meet soon in Doha to revive the talks after having previously insisted they meet in the Iranian capital.

The round in Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, collapsed in 1992 after Iran refused to discuss Greater and Lesser Tunb.

The islands dispute erupted in 1992 after the UAE accused Iran of trying to annex Abu Musa despite a 21-year-old arrangement to share administration with the emirate of Sharjah.

Expulsion of foreigners will continue, Libya says

BEIRUT (AFP) — Libya will continue to expel foreign workers to ease unemployment caused by U.N. sanctions, a senior Libyan official said Wednesday.

"Libya will continue to expel foreigners who have an illegal status in our country and will assume no responsibility for them after the United Nations refusal to allow them to leave by air," Ibrahim Kudair told AFP in Beirut.

"These measures could affect more than one million people because Libya has decided to give job priorities to Libyans," said Mr. Kudair, a secretary in charge of Libyan labour affairs as well as the expulsions launched in September.

"But we will always need hundreds of thousands of foreign workers," he added.

The United Nations imposed an air embargo on

Libya in 1992, after it refused to hand over to Britain or the United States two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi announced at the start of September that he would expel his country's 30,000 Palestinians to show up what he called the failure of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) autonomy deal with Israel.

"This air embargo and the ban on importing spare parts has slowed down our development projects and stopped the creation of 250,000 new jobs," Mr. Kudair said.

Kudair insisted that "many humanitarian problems could have been solved if Libya or the countries concerned by the expulsion of foreigners were allowed to repatriate them by air."

A request to that effect by Sudan — which expects 300,000 of its nationals to be expelled from Libya — was turned down by the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Sudanese nationals forced out of Libya must trek across 3,000 kilometres of desert to reach their country. Khartoum said five deportees died on the road and tens of thousands were stuck in border camps without proper medical care.

Mr. Kudair confirmed Libya had stopped expelling Palestinian workers but said they no longer enjoyed any special privileges.

"Before, because they were stateless, they were a priority over all other foreigners and were treated on an equal footing with Libyan nationals. But now we are encouraging those who can return to Gaza and the West Bank to go back."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait arrests two Iraqi 'infiltrators'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti police on Tuesday arrested two Iraqis trying to enter illegally over the desert frontier to escape poor living conditions, a newspaper said on Wednesday.

"The infiltrators said during interrogation they escaped from Iraq due to a lack of security and deterioration in living conditions," Al ANBA newspaper said. ANBA said the two attempted to cross the border on foot. It had no further details, interior ministry officials could not immediately be reached for comment. There has been an upsurge in Iraqis arriving in Kuwait since two senior Iraqi officials defected to Jordan in August. Border posts have been closed since the 1991 Gulf war which ended a seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but Iraqis have crossed over regularly since the war to smuggle alcohol or seek work.

Iraq sends condolences to Egypt on blast

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq sent its condolences to Egypt on Tuesday after the bomb blast at the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad that killed 16 people, despite the absence of diplomatic ties between the two Arab states. The official news agency INA said Foreign Minister Mohammad Al Sahaf sent a telegram of condolence to his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa. Iraq broke off ties with Egypt during the 1991 Gulf war when Egyptian troops fought alongside the U.S.-led military coalition to evict Iraqi troops from Kuwait. But Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called in October for a formula to relieve the hardships of the Iraqi people whose country has been under crippling U.N. sanctions since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Singer Leila Murad dies at 78

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian singer and film star Leila Murad died of heart failure at the age of 78 late Tuesday, the daily Al Ahrar reported. Born in 1917 to a Jewish family, Murad converted to Islam when she married a film director, with whom she had one son. After her first film, "The Victims," in 1934, Murad's star rose to become one of the most popular Arab actresses of the 1940s and her lithe voice earned her the title the "Lute of Arab Song" the paper said.

First Libyan ferry in a month docks in Malta

VALLETTA (R) — A Libyan ferry arrived in Malta's Grand Harbour on Wednesday nearly a month after the service between Libya and Malta was suspended following the killing of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi on the island. Sea Malta, local agent for Libya's General National Maritime Transport Company (GNMTC), said the ferry Garmata had arrived to take passengers and cargo. They did not say if this meant the resumption of the regular daily ferryboat service, which has been a key route for Libyan travellers since the United Nations imposed sanctions, including an air ban, on Libya over the 1988 Lockerbie airline bombing. The Libyan company suspended the ferry service on Nov. 1, a day after a demonstration by some 500 Libyans and Palestinians outside the Maltese embassy in Tripoli to protest against Shaqaqi's murder. Shaqaqi was shot outside a hotel in Malta on Oct. 26 but no arrests have been made since. He was travelling on a Libyan passport under an assumed name.

Militant who ambushed tourist trains killed

CAIRO (AFP) — Police have shot dead a militant suspected of attacking tourist trains in south Egypt, the interior ministry announced on Wednesday. Police raided the hideout of Khaled Al Khalawi Abu Oassem late Tuesday in sugarcane fields near Farshut town in the province of Oena, 640 kilometres south of Cairo, the ministry said in a statement. Abu Oassem opened fire on police and was killed in the gunbattle that ensued, the ministry said. He was wanted in connection with two train attacks in the Farshut region in early November in which 14 people were injured, including two foreigners. The militant Gamaa Islamiyya claimed the two attacks, warning foreign visitors to "go home," in a renewal of a campaign targeting tourists.

Kuwaiti gas stations struck by hold-ups

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A wave of hold-ups at Kuwaiti gasoline stations has prompted a Kuwaiti MP to propose that customers pay with coupons rather than cash. Islamist Deputy Muftarej Nahar Al Mutairi said Wednesday he had urged parliament to back the "sale of gasoline coupons in supermarkets, like those distributed to civil servants so that people no longer pay in cash." Gas stations are poorly guarded, and cash registers sometimes contain more than 4,000 dinars (\$12,000) at the end of the day, which encourages criminals to attack them, he said. Cashiers at gas stations have complained about a wave of armed robberies.

U.S. aircraft carrier, submarine in Gulf region

DUBAI (AFP) — A U.S. aircraft carrier, submarine and guided missile cruiser have entered the Gulf and Red Sea region to reinforce the Fifth Fleet, a U.S. Navy spokesman said Wednesday. The USS America aircraft carrier, USS Oklahoma City submarine and USS Monterey guided missile cruiser sailed into the region on Sunday as part of a "routine, scheduled deployment," the spokesman, Commander T. McCreary, said. He declined to give their exact location. Both the submarine and missile cruiser carry Tomahawk cruise missiles. Their arrival brings to 28 the number of navy ships in the region, including 13 ships carrying tanks and other equipment which were dispatched to the Gulf and Red Sea in August. The ships were carrying the material for more than 20,000 troops sent after Washington said it had detected unusual Iraqi troop movements around Baghdad and wanted to cut the time needed to respond to any threat to Kuwait.

Former officials urge Khartoum and southern rebels to end strife

KHARTOUM (AP) — Five former Sudanese officials have appealed in a letter to the Islamic regime and southern rebels to negotiate an end to the civil war by giving the south the right to a say in its future.

The existence of the letter was disclosed Wednesday by Amin Banani, a member of Sudan's parliament and a leading proponent of Islamic rule in the north.

Mr. Banani was quoted in the independent Al Rai Al Akhar newspaper as criticising the government for not making the letter public and as saying that he supported discussion of the idea.

Among those who signed the letter was Abel Alier, who served as vice president under former President Gaafar Nimeiri. Mr. Alier negotiated a 1972 truce to the civil war.

Southern rebels rose up again in 1983 to demand more autonomy for Christians and tribal religionists in the south from the Islamic north. More than 1.3 million people have died since in

fighting and war-related famines.

"I agree with the content of the letter of former Vice President Abel Alier, which calls for giving southern Sudan the right to self-determination," said Mr. Banani.

He also said the letter should have been made public earlier so that it could be subject to "open debate."

"Everything can be negotiated except the Sharia (Islamic Law)," Mr. Banani said. "Self-determination is not a thing that cannot be discussed or negotiated."

Mr. Banani was a member of the politburo of the National Islamic Front. The front, like other parties, was ordered disbanded after Lt. Gen. Omar Al Bashir took power in a bloodless coup in 1989. The party was headed by Hassan Al Turabi, believed to be the power behind Al Bashir's government.

The letter echoes a call for self-determination that was made by opposition politicians and rebel leaders at a conference last June in

Asmara, Eritrea.

The Sudanese government condemned that conference, suggesting that those who participated had committed treason against Sudan.

The government has rejected all calls for succession by the south. But it has said it is willing to exempt non-Muslims from the application of Islamic Sharia law and will consider some autonomy for the southern region.

The newspaper quoted the letter as saying the people of the south should be allowed "their fundamental right" of deciding on some form of unity with the north or "the option for southern Sudan to become an independent sovereign state."

Under Islamic rule, it said, the southerners find themselves, treated as "second-class citizens" and are under social, racial, cultural and religious pressure.

The letter called for a national conference with participation by all factions to establish a "transitional administration."

S. Arabia criticises politics during Haj

JEDDAH (AP) — In an apparent reference to rival Iran, Saudi Arabia's interior minister criticised Muslims who carry out political activities during the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

"How can anyone turn these grand traditions of a ceremony like this to argue and fight," Prince Nayef, the interior minister, said Tuesday night in Mecca at a conference on the Hajj. "How can the Hajj become an occasion for reaching political aims?"

His comments were carried by the official Saudi news agency.

The pilgrimage to Mecca, where the Prophet Mohammad was born, is one of the five main pillars of Islam. Every Muslim who is physically and financially able is expected to make the trip at least once.

Prince Nayef did not specify any nationality.

Abu Marzouk seeks release from U.S. jail

NEW YORK (R) — A leader of an Islamic group being held in the United States at Israel's request is seeking release on bail, according to court documents obtained by Reuters on Tuesday.

Moussa Abu Marzouk, 4, arrested at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York on July 25, alleges that Israel's general security services tortured the prime witness against him in judicial proceedings in Israel, the court documents said.

U.S. immigration officials stopped Mr. Abu Marzouk because his name was on a list of suspected terrorists. Israel wants him extradited to face trial on charges of complicity in 10 "terrorist attacks" carried out by Hamas, a fundamentalist Islamic group opposed to the Middle East peace process, and for numerous murders.

The Israeli government last month filed more than 1,000 pages of documents to support its bid for Mr. Abu Marzouk's extradition, a bail hearing is set for Dec. 11.

Mr. Abu Marzouk's lawyer, Stanley Cohen, said the treasury department had granted a license to a committee to raise funds for Mr. Abu Marzouk's defence even though his name was on a government list of suspected terrorists.

In his writ of habeas corpus petition filed late on Monday in federal court before U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood, Mr. Abu Marzouk alleges that the most damning information against him came from Muhammad Salah, who was arrested and sentenced to five years in Israel for his Hamas activities.

In a sworn affidavit signed in Israel on Nov. 8, Mr. Salah denies all the statements he is alleged to have made to the Israelis, "particularly as they relate to my knowledge of and relationship with (Abu Marzouk)."

Mr. Salah said in his affidavit that he was forced to undress, remain naked for hours, struck repeatedly, made to lie on the cold floor and deprived of sleep, and that his family in the United States was threatened with violence unless he confessed "and confirmed the allegations" against Mr. Abu Marzouk.

In a complaint filed by Israel in July to U.S. authorities as a first step to detain Mr. Abu Marzouk, Mr. Salah, a former Chicago used car salesman and a U.S. citizen, allegedly confessed that Mr. Abu Marzouk ordered him to recruit individuals for training in the use of explosives to fight in the "holy war."

Lebanon marks independence day under the shadow of its neighbours

By Sam F. Ghattas
Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Lebanon marked 52 years of independence Wednesday, but the tiny nation feels squeezed between its more powerful neighbors, Syria and Israel.

For the past decade, Israeli troops have occupied about 10 per cent of Lebanon's territory in a self-declared security zone in South Lebanon, and Israeli warplanes have controlled the skies.

The 40,000 Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon almost match the size of Lebanon's own army, and many Lebanese government decisions are heavily influenced, if not decided, in the Syrian capital of Damascus.

With bagpipes and French martial music playing, Lebanese troops filed past a reviewing stand Wednesday along one of

Beirut's main streets, the scene of fighting during the country's 1975-90 civil war.

The government has largely restored law and order over the past five years. The rebuilt army is now 50,000-strong and a multi-billion dollar economic reconstruction campaign is moving ahead.

But some commentators felt there was little to celebrate.

"What are they celebrating? Which independence?" Al Nahar, a leading Lebanese newspaper, said in a front-page editorial Tuesday. "Is there anything left of independence and its meanings to deserve celebration?"

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, speaking to Lebanese expatriates Tuesday in Argentina, said independence day would not take on its full meaning until Israeli forces pulled out of south Lebanon and there was a "just and com-

prehensive peace in the region."

Lebanon insists that Israel withdraw from the south Lebanon border enclave. Israel says it is willing to pull out, but only if its northern areas can be secured against cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Lebanon's peace negotiations with Israel have been stalled for over a year. The United States, sponsor of Mideast peace negotiations, and the Israelis have focused their attention on Syria and it is widely believed that Lebanon will follow Syria's lead.

"The developments in the region have proven that there is no peace without peace with Syria and Lebanon," President Elias Hrawi said Tuesday night.

In a thinly veiled criticism of Israel, Mr. Hrawi said, "We are not the ones who are delaying the fulfillment of peace."

Syria's own peace talks

with Israel have made little progress since they began in 1991. The two sides are at odds over future ties and security arrangements on the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in 1967.

Syria has emerged as the main power in Lebanon and its role has expanded to involve most important issues. Even the final word on extending Mr. Hrawi's term in office came from Syria last month.

But many Lebanese feel a Syrian military pullout from Lebanon could rekindle the civil war.

"Quite obviously (Lebanese) independence isn't as complete as it should be," Ronald Schleicher, the top U.S. diplomat in Lebanon said Wednesday at the presidential palace. "We hope that with the peace process, Lebanon will be able to achieve its full independence and sovereignty."

Iran hangs businessman for bank embezzlement

NICOSIA (R) — Iran on Wednesday hanged a businessman convicted of bank embezzlement, the official IRNA news agency said.

Fazel Khodadad was sentenced to death in August on charges involving embezzlement of about 65 billion rials (\$21.7 million at the official rate) from state-run Bank Saderat.

IRNA said on Wednesday the sum was 1,230 billion (\$410 million). It gave no explanation for the discrepancy.

Khodadad was hanged at Tehran's Evin prison before dawn, the agency said.

Death sentences for economic offences are rare in Iran. Khodadad was sentenced under Islamic laws allowing capital punishment for "sabotaging the country's economic system," said a copy of the ruling.

Khodadad was ordered to

pay about 104 billion rials (\$34.7 million) in fines and damages. He was also ordered to be flogged 50 times for using drugs and a further 99 times for an illegal sexual liaison with a woman involving "touching, kissing and lying next to each other."

IRNA said the supreme court had confirmed the verdicts against Khodadad and other convicts in the case.

Morteza Rafiqoddin and bank employee Abutaleb Ebrahimi were sentenced to life imprisonment and ordered to pay fines.

IRNA said Ebrahim Arya and Jamshid Arghand were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Three others — Sayyed Mohammad Sa'ed Majidi Tehrani, Rahim Bakhtiari and Khosrow Vaseidi — were ordered to pay heavy fines, it added, giving no details.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:00 1st — The Happy Professor
13:30 Fireman Sam
13:30 My Secret Identity
15:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
15:30 White Heat
16:00 Gillette World Sport Special
17:00 Sophie Et Virginie
17:30 Varieties — C'est Votre Vie
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Archimede
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Carol and Company
20:00 Futuras
20:15 The Album Show
21:10 The New Avengers
22:00 News in English
22:25

Feature film: "Hoodwinked"
23:59 The Thorn Birds

PRAYER TIMES

04:45 Fajr
06:06 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:22 Asr
16:15 Maghrib
17:28 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweditch, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh 736011
Dr. Wisam Hazi 779474
Dr. Fakher Bilbisi 63412
Dr. Bilal Al Sayyid 891280
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637655
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644545
Shmeisani pharmacy 637661
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099
Al Ouds pharmacy (T-9)

ZARQA: Dr. Tareq Hijwaji 985445
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The effect of the depression will continue, so temperatures will drop further with rainfall expected in all parts of the Kingdom and winds becoming southerly active. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp. 5/11
Aqaba 9/18

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634302
Traffic Police 634301
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

AMMAN Municipality 767111
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone R-pairs 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 626381
RJ Flight Information 98-5320
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81361332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 64428116
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn. 64424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 662362
Maltes, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shmeisani 660701
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 658545
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612767
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ahrifish 7711126
Army, Abdali 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66234050
Amal Hospital 667155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865194

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)983323
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)984601

IRBID: Princess Basmal Hospital (02)755555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)722775
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247101
Princess Haya Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532015, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:20 Dhaka, Sana'a (RJ)
09:00 Doha, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:10 Moscow, Doha (RJ)
10:30 Colombo (RJ)
11:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
16:25 London (RJ)
17:35 Moscow (RJ)
18:40 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:10 Agadir (RJ)
19:15 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
19:45 Rome (RJ)
19:45 Athens, Larnaca (RJ)
20:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Agadir (RJ)
07:15 Moscow (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
12:05 London (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
12:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
12:45 Jeddah (RJ)
22:05 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:50 Beirut, London (BA)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Beirut (ME)
14:40 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Algiers (AH)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
16:40 Istanbul (OT)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

17:15 Doha (EK)
21:10 Cairo (MS)
02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana (Mukammal) 680
Carrot 120/80
Cauliflower 180/120
Cucumbers (large) 200/120
Cucumbers (small) 370/200
Eggplant 160/100
Garlic 650/500
Grapes 650/500
Grape Fruit 200/150
Lemon 250/180
Marrow (large) 160/100
Marrow (small) 200/120
Olives (green) 240/200
Onion (green) 240/200
Onion (dry) 230/150
Orange 450/350
Pepper (hot) 160/100
Pepper (sweet) 180/120
Potato 270/180
Radish 130/80
Spinach 180/120
String Beans 70/50
Tangerine 250/180
Tomato 170/100

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
12:40 Sharjah (AH)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Doha (OT)
14:00 Beirut (EK)
19:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:10 Cairo (MS)
23:10 London (RJ)
01:15 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
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07:15 Moscow (RJ)
10:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:05 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
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Spinach 180/120
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Tangerine 250/180
Tomato 170/100

Doctors stress need to establish control committee

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Doctors participating in a two-day symposium entitled "Malpractice in the Medical Profession," stressed the need to set up a committee of experts to evaluate and reevaluate the standard of medical practices in Jordan.

"We, doctors, should take the initiative of establishing a quality control committee in which the specifications of the profession could be updated according to medical discoveries and development," said Kamal Aljouni, professor of medicine at Jordan University.

Experts in the field of medicine, justice and journalism, will discuss medical malpractice and how it relates to the laws, insurance, mass media exposure, and patient-doctor relationships.

Doctors attending the workshop were locked in a discussion over the extent to which a patient has the right to know his/her medical condition prior to surgery.

"In the US the doctor goes through the details because he is fearful of a legal suit after the operation. Here, we should set an ethical code, where limited information would be given to the patient, taking into account his/her social condition and education," said Dr. Aljouni.

Information should be given if the patient

demands it, he added.

Doctors stressed that current laws hinder them from contributing and participating in the field of medicine.

"We seek the well-being of the patient, but if something goes wrong, we are treated under the criminal code, not the malpractice code," Ghassan Farah, of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan told the Jordan Times.

It is the proper time, said Jamal Masad, assistant professor of the same faculty, to establish a medical body to protect doctors.

"This body will include lawyers, judges as well as doctors," Dr. Masad added.

"Doctors should not be taken to court until this medical body finds it is a case of malpractice, especially since a doctor's reputation is easily affected and that he/she is sometimes taken to court without substantial evidence," he said.

Pharmacist Imad Malhas said Jordanian citizens are unaware of their rights in the case of malpractice. Therefore they rarely file complaints, he said.

"Statistics clearly show that Jordanians are reluctant to take a doctor to court, in cases of malpractice," Mr. Malhas said.

Establishing a committee to upgrade the medical profession is important especially since patients tend to drop the case due to some social pressures, Dr. Aljouni said, hinting at tribal customs.

Minister inaugurates two water projects

Government embarks on JD 200m plan to replace old water networks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat on Wednesday inaugurated a JD 1,147,394 water pipeline project in Al Muwaqqar District, southeast of Amman.

The project, to be completed within 180 days, aims to supply the villages of Maghayer Al Muhanna, Nuqaira, Buweidha, Um Burma, Duheiba, Khattimiyeh and Faisaliyah with a total of 3,600 cubic metres of water a day.

Minister of State Jamal Khreisheh, who was present at the ceremony, said the project was launched at directives by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to tackle the problem of scarcity of water in the area, inhabited by about 60,000 people.

Mr. Khreisheh said preliminary studies, which were prepared by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), showed that the project will resolve this problem in a record time.

Dr. Irsheidat later inaugurated a similar project

worth JD 646,000 to extend a water pipeline from Al Juweidhah Bridge to Al Faisaliyah Bridge.

The 3.5-kilometre pipeline will provide water to Sabab Industrial City.

About 1,000 cubic metres of water will be pumped daily through the pipeline to new factories established recently at the city as well as areas it passes through, including a grain silo and two villages with a population of 80,000.

Following the two ceremonies, held in observance of His Majesty King Hussein's 60th birthday, Dr. Irsheidat said in a statement the government was keen to provide tap water to all of the Kingdom's populated areas and to resolve chronic problems in areas suffering water shortages.

The government, he said, has started an ambitious national plan aimed at changing old water networks which waste about 50 per cent of the water pumped through them.

He said the project, which is expected to cost JD 200



Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irsheidat Wednesday inaugurates a water project south of Amman (Petra photo)

million, includes plans to replace the main feeding networks in Irbid, Ramtha, Mafrag, Salt and Amman.

According to the minister, two main stages of the project in Amman were completed.

"We will continue the other stages as soon as possible since this project takes high priority," Dr. Irsheidat

said.

The minister said contacts started recently to find funding for a pipeline project to pump water from Al Disi basin, in south Jordan.

Several foreign companies visited Jordan to get familiarised with the details of the project, said Dr. Irsheidat, who added that tenders for the project will

be invited as soon as an international company completes feasibility studies.

He added that designs to build dams in Al Tannour, Mujib and Wala areas were ready, noting that there is European readiness to construct the dams through providing soft loans at "very encouraging interest

rates."

He said the main problem facing the ministry in resolving the problem of water shortage in some areas was the high cost of water pipelines as well as the poor quality of underground water in some of the Kingdom's regions.

The minister stressed that Jordan "has gained the lion's share of the Yarmouk River water" under the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed October 1994, noting that Jordan will obtain 90 million cubic metres of the river's water annually.

Dr. Irsheidat said several European countries have also expressed readiness to finance a \$70-80 million water pipeline project between Al Adassiyeh and Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley by offering soft loans. Technical studies on the project are now in their final phase, he said, adding that tenders for the project will be announced as soon as these studies are finished.

Industrial bank doubles profits this year

AMMAN (Petra) — The first nine months of 1995 brought in a profit of JD 4.2 million to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), double the amount made in the same period of 1994, according to Bank Director General Rajab Sa'ad Wednesday.

The gross revenues of the bank between January and end of September this year amounted to JD 5.7 million compared to JD 3.7 million in the first nine months of last year, Mr. Sa'ad said. He attributed the increase to the bank's policy of reducing administrative expenses, which this year amounted to JD 1.4 million, down from JD 1.6 million in the same period of last year.

Mr. Sa'ad said the bank's assets are estimated at JD 138 million up from JD 128 million last year. He said that the bank's total loans to Jordanian businesses now stand at JD 91 million, up from JD 83 million in 1994.

The bank has recently adopted a policy of offering businesses a package of integrated diverse banking services which have proved to be useful to borrowers, according to Mr. Sa'ad.

63-year-old rapist receives death sentence

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Wednesday sentenced Sabri Abdullah Abu Foudeh, 63, to death for molesting and raping a 10-year-old girl from Jabal Nafir in his shop in April.

In addition, the convict received five additional years of imprisonment with hard labour after being found guilty of molesting the child "100 times" and was ordered by the court to pay JD 25,000 in compensation to the victim's family.

Abu Foudeh, who pleaded not guilty, bowed his head when hearing the verdict, but seemed impassive as he was escorted outside the courtroom by security officers.

According to court documents, the main evidence used against Abu Foudeh was his own confession in front of the prosecutor general that on the afternoon of April 29 he asked Basma Bakr, who was returning home from school to enter his shop, took her behind the counter, molested and then raped her.

The girl, an Egyptian national, was threatened with death by Abu Foudeh if she told anyone what happened, the court documents said.

The child, who had been molested by Abu Foudeh for over a period of four months, told her family who had noticed that something was wrong with their daughter, according to the documents.

In his testimony to police, Abu Foudeh first

denied that he had raped the girl or that he even knew her. But later he confessed in front of the prosecutor general to molesting and raping the child.

Other evidence used in the case was a 10-year-old child, a friend of Basma's, who told the court that she saw Basma in Abu Foudeh's shop shortly before the incident.

Other prosecutor witnesses in the case included, other than the child, her parents and the forensic doctor who examined the girl after the rape.

The prosecutor general had sought the maximum penalty. The verdict will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation in the next 15 days.

U.S. lecturer: Teamwork is key to Arab women's political success

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Women in the Arab World should learn to work in teams to be successful in their future elections and in order for them to be recognised locally, according to U.S. speaker Mark W. Cannon.

Dr. Cannon, who was addressing women from various Jordanian sectors in lecture at the American Centre Tuesday, entitled "Women and Elections in a Democratic Environment," said the key issue for women's success is "team work and planning ahead of time."

"In order for women running for offices and elections in this part of region to succeed, they have to gain visibility and to plan their campaigns five or six years ahead of time," said Dr. Cannon who is the Vice Chairman of Cannon Industries, which invests in cutting-edge technologies in several continents.

"Efforts have to be on a long range operation and

women must depersonalise themselves and keep working on their efforts by persuading people, and by keeping in mind that things will not work the first time," he said.

Moreover, he pointed out, in order for females to overcome male domination, they have to become less threatening to men.

"Less threatening does not mean that you should not propose an idea or talk about your goals, but to do it and win respect," he said.

He stressed that women in organisations should encourage and support other women competitors even if they are from different organisations, societies or parties.

"It is critical to have progress of women in different political parties through women's encouragement for each other which will play a major factor in developing women's status in this country," he asserted.

Bulgarian businessmen study investment opportunities in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgarian businessmen are studying the possibility of investment in Jordan in conjunction with the Jordanian business community to promote Jordanian-Bulgarian commercial and economic cooperation, according to Jihad Salem, president of the Arab-Bulgarian friendship society Wednesday.

It was after the Bulgarian businessmen's participation in the Amman economic summit that they decided to study investment possibilities in Jordan, Mr. Salem said.

Following the economic summit, the Bulgarian media broadcast reports

about Jordan's industries and the investment climate in the Kingdom, according to Mr. Salem.

Mr. Salem called on Jordanian merchants and businessmen to increase their trade with Bulgaria and exchange visits with Bulgarian businessmen in order to further increase Jordanian exports to Bulgarian markets.

He said Jordanian goods, particularly agricultural products, and light industrial products like biscuits, tissue paper and pharmaceuticals have a potential market in Bulgaria.

What is impeding the expansion of trade at present, Mr. Salem said, is the

lack of trade and economic agreements between Jordan and Bulgaria. He said such agreements were of paramount importance to increase trade.

According to Mr. Salem Jordan has been selling Bulgaria phosphate and potash but these exports are worth \$8 million annually compared to Bulgarian exports to Jordan which are worth \$30 million annually.

The 618 members who constitute the Arab-Bulgarian friendship society are prominent officials and executives of major firms in Bulgaria, according to Mr. Salem.

Meeting calls for increased Arab food production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Executive Board of the Arab Organisation of Agricultural Development (AOAD) Wednesday endorsed a number of joint studies with African countries and backed the AOAD's proposed activities for the next three years.

According to the statement, these activities include programmes for protecting the environment, developing natural and human resources and giving impetus to projects aimed at ensuring food security in the Arab world. Delegates represented Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- * "El Rey Del Bambu" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, on Thursday at 5.00 p.m.
- * "Ingres: Slaves of Fashion" (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, on Thursday at 5.30 p.m.

LECTURES

- * "The Ruling Crisis during the Abdul Karim Qasim era" in Arabic by Dr. Mohammad Al Zubaidi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation on Thursday at 6.00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- * Recital of poems by Amal Al Jbouri of Iraq at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, on Thursday at 6.00 p.m. (accompanying music from Munir Bashir).
- * Musical performance by concert pianist Jean-Pierre Fournier at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Annual fall exhibition "Khwatir" at the Jordan River Designs, (Tel. 613081/2) until Dec. 1.
- * "Pakistani Women of Substance in paintings and photographs" at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Weibdeh.

Thanksgiving Is Here

Who's

Celebrate the great American holiday on Nov. 23rd in traditional style. Al-Mansaf Restaurant features a delectable buffet for lunch and a special seated menu for dinner.

Got Time

Taste our mouth-watering roast turkey, complete with all the trimmings!

Or have the same delicious meal at home.

To Cook?

For every roast turkey you order to go, you get a pumpkin pie free for 10 persons.

To order please call The Pastry Shop 48 hours in advance.

WE DO!

AMMAN Marriott 607607

New Zealand and Australia condemn French nuclear test

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand and Australia, angry over France's continued nuclear testing in the South Pacific, Wednesday condemned the most recent test and rebuked Paris for defying international protests.

"It is utterly disappointing and extremely frustrating that France, in the face of so much international opposition, should persist with these tests. We deplore this latest blast," New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said.

Mr. McKinnon summoned French Ambassador Jacques Le Blanc to a meeting immediately upon hearing news of the test Tuesday, the fourth in the series.

"I have delivered a short and sharp message to Ambassador Le Blanc. France is being left in absolutely no doubt about the strength of New Zealand feeling at its actions," Mr. McKinnon told reporters after the meeting.

Mr. Le Blanc declined to comment on the meeting and was ushered through a side door to avoid waiting reporters.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, who has announced a campaign to rid the world of nuclear weapons, said he was appalled at the latest blast.

"(France) has further isolated itself from international

thinking on nuclear issues and significantly devalued its international credentials," Mr. Keating said in a statement.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, in what he described as a stern 40-minute meeting with Ambassador Dominique Girard, urged France to abandon its test programme and close its South Pacific nuclear test facilities.

"I told him that the test programme was continuing in contemptuous disregard of what was clearly the overwhelming opposition of the international community," Mr. Evans said.

A French statement said the underground blast, equivalent to less than 40,000 tonnes of conventional explosives, was detonated at the Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia at 10.30 p.m. Paris time (2130 GMT).

The New Zealand Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences said the explosion measured 15 kilotonnes, equal to 15,000 tonnes of ordinary explosives.

Paris said the blast was aimed at developing the capacity to simulate tests on computer.

President Jacques Chirac has said France will cut the number of tests to six from a scheduled eight. Mr. Chirac has promised to sign a

treaty banning tests forever once the series is completed, by May 31 at the latest.

The environmental group Greenpeace said the fourth test was a slap in the face for the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

"The majority of Commonwealth and United Nations members have shown a united voice against continued nuclear testing," Greenpeace spokesman Michael Szabo said in a statement.

"Instead of listening to the opinion of the international community, the French president, Jacques Chirac, has responded by slapping them in the face."

South Pacific regional leaders, including Japan's Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, noted that President Chirac was flying in the face of a U.N. General Assembly resolution last week opposing testing.

"We want France to stop. France should stop," Mr. Murayama told reporters in Tokyo.

In Rome Wednesday, supporters of the environmental organisation Greenpeace demonstrated on the Franco-Italian border and in Brussels, the Belgian Foreign Ministry expressed "great regret" at the fourth test.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm Wallen said this

week: "Obviously it's not a satisfying situation when France does not want to cooperate with other countries at the highest level. The solution is to stop nuclear testing."

In Copenhagen, Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen said Wednesday that Denmark "deplored" the new test and in Vienna, Austrian Environment Minister Martin Berentein said it was "very disappointing" and "totally incomprehensible" of France to continue with the programme.

In Fiji the South Pacific Forum, which represents 15 of the nations closest to the Mururoa atoll nuclear test site, expressed "extreme outrage" at the latest blast. Forum Secretary General Iremia Tabai said: "It is my hope that France note that our continuing anger over nuclear testing is justified."

In Papeete, capital of French Polynesia, the head of the local Evangelical Church, Jacques Ihorai, said: "Once again the strong, France, dominates the weak, Polynesia, and the latter is forced to accept a nuclear policy it deplors."

Security was stepped up in the French Polynesian capital following the blast. The first test sparked off fierce rioting in Papeete by pro-independence Polynesians, and security



Princess Diana talks to BBC's Panorama presenter Martin Bashir in an exclusive interview (AFP photo)

Princess Diana's gamble pays off

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana's high-risk gamble to bare her soul to tens of millions of television viewers appears to have paid off as media phone-in polls showed overwhelming support for her.

In a painfully frank interview the demure mother of two told of the pain of her failed marriage to Prince Charles, her knowledge of his adultery with Camilla Parker-Bowles and her own affair with handsome army officer James Hewitt who betrayed her with a kiss-and-tell book.

She also spoke of a smear campaign against her and cast doubt on her estranged husband's suitability to become king.

Nicholas Soames, a close friend of Prince Charles, dismissed the interview, saying Princess Diana was "showing advanced stages of paranoia" but most Britons seemed to disagree.

The mass-circulation Daily Mirror said 37,000 readers had telephoned to give their views and a staggering 93 per cent said that Princess Diana's BBC appearance was a good move.

Another phone-in survey attracted 15,000 callers, with 83 per cent saying the interview raised their opinion of the 34-year-old princess.

"By the end, I was left feeling I had listened to a very strong, loving woman give a very honest account of a very painful period of her life. I admire her," a woman caller told another tabloid newspaper, the Sun. "Diana would provide the country with the compassionate monarch we all want," said another.

Newspapers billed the candid revelations of the beautiful blonde princess as the biggest crisis to hit the monarchy since Edward VIII abdicated the throne in 1936 for American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

The damage to the monarchy remains to be seen but if Princess Diana proved anything with her assured performance Monday it was that she is a force to be reckoned with and certainly not the shy, retiring young woman Prince Charles married 14 years ago.

With a peak audience of 23 million in Britain, an 83 per cent share of viewers, and 10 times that number internationally, Princess Diana's superstar status cannot be denied.

Her sensational confessions of bulimic binges, self-inflicted wounding and bouts of depression topped the news around the globe.

Buckingham Palace, quick to limit any further damage, offered to hold talks with Princess Diana to discuss her future role. That alone could be considered the first small victory in her quest to be "an ambassador for Britain."

"This is a cool woman. This is certainly no bimbo and this woman in that sense is going to be difficult for the palace," said psychiatrist Anthony Clare, assessing Princess Diana's performance.

Even her critics who thought the interview was a calculated bit of stage acting admitted that her bold move will increase her popularity.

"It was a performance. An acting job. But it will put her back into the hearts of the British people," biographer Penny Junor said.

"It was a consummate performance which confound-

ed the courtiers who once dismissed her as a shallow dimwit. She proved Monday night she is articulate, ruthless, tenacious and a fine actress," columnist Lynda Lee-Potter wrote in the Daily Mail.

Meanwhile Argentina will provide the stage Thursday for Princess Diana's chosen new career as "ambassador" for Britain, but many Argentines are unimpressed with her confessions of adultery and indifference to her visit.

Princess Diana arrives in Buenos Aires Thursday for a programme of visits to charities and hospitals.

The 34-year-old princess is making her debut as envoy in a country that still bears the scars of the 1982 Falklands War. Most of the 1,000 servicemen killed in the 10-week war were Argentine and the country still campaigns for sovereignty.

Argentine officials, aware of the sensitivity of her visit when the two former foes have just signed a Falklands oil deal, have kept up a discreet silence about Princess Diana and her account of her side of the royal marriage break-up.

The local press was less diplomatic. "I was unfaithful, Lady Di admits," read Clarin's cover with a photo of her at a charity dinner. La Nacion called her "a blend of Mother Teresa, Audrey Hepburn and Shirley Temple."

Her visit reinforces one British paper's comparison with Eva Peron, wife of Juan Peron, the populist Argentine president from 1946-55 and 1973-74.

"Eva Peron achieved widespread popular support through her work on social welfare, and received far more public affection than her husband," wrote The European newspaper last week.

Peronist President Carlos Menem, who reveres the memory of Evita, is due to lunch with Princess Diana Friday. His own life is full of controversies, including divorce and a son born out of wedlock.

While well-heeled Argentines lobby for an invitation to a lunch with Princess Diana or a charity dinner Friday, others voice disapproval of her behaviour and the television interview.

"She seems like a nice girl, but we don't like those declarations of hers saying she cheated on her husband," said Lita De Lazzari, head of the League of Housewives. "She's supposed to be an example to the women of the world. It's a shame she didn't come to us for some advice first."

The Housewives' leader was not alone in criticising "the fuss all these social climbers are making to get to see her."

Hebe De Bonafini, leader of Argentina's best-known human rights group, the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, told Reuters: "For me the princess is just a woman like any other and I don't care why she's coming. Such a lot of tabloid press after her when there are so many things happening in the world."

Khasbulatov to join Chechenya election race

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's old foe Ruslan Khasbulatov has been nominated as a candidate for leader of the breakaway southern region of Chechenya. ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday.

The election, which Chechen separatists have vowed to disrupt, is set for Dec. 17, the same day as a vote for seats in Russia's state Duma lower chamber of parliament.

Registration of candidates was expected to start Wednesday. It was not clear if Mr. Khasbulatov's name had been formally submitted to the Electoral Commission or who would stand against him.

His candidacy was announced by his party in Chechenya — the People's Union for the Revival of the Republic, TASS said.

The regional capital Grozny was rocked early Wednesday morning by a powerful bomb blast and another bomb was dismantled. Interfax News Agency said. But it was not clear who was responsible or if there was any link to the elections.

Interfax said one person was wounded and another suffered shell-shock.

The blast took place in the same area as a bomb attack Monday against Moscow-backed Chechen government head Doku Zavgayev, who was due to discuss the Chechen elections with Mr. Yeltsin Wednesday.

Mr. Khasbulatov's party had favoured holding regional elections in March 1996 because of the current unstable situation. But the Dec. 17 date for the polls was set last weekend.

Mr. Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen who chaired the former Russian parliament which confronted Mr. Yeltsin in October 1993, enjoys significant support in Chechenya as a politician who is no friend of the Kremlin.

Moscow sees him as a potentially useful counterweight to Dzhokhar Dudayev, who unilaterally declared Chechenya independent in 1991. Dudayev has been leading resistance to Russian troops that moved against him almost a year ago and eventually forced him to retreat to the mountains.

Thousands of people have been killed in the conflict and casualty figures have been creeping up daily despite a loose ceasefire reached in June.

TASS quoted the regional Russian Military Press Service as saying 10 Chechen fighters were killed southwest of Grozny Tuesday night.

Mr. Khasbulatov has been trying to get the peace process back on track in recent weeks after a series of bomb attacks, including one which almost killed Russia's top military commander in the region, General Anatoly Romanov.

Mr. Yeltsin told a Kremlin news conference in September that Mr. Khasbulatov, a sharp-tongued former economics professor, could play a role in a peaceful settlement in breakaway Chechenya. "I think we should not write off Khasbulatov," Mr. Yeltsin said. "He has a certain standing in Chechenya. Why should we always remember the past?"

Mr. Khasbulatov was a strong Yeltsin supporter and replaced him as head of parliament in 1991. But the two men became bitter enemies in a power struggle which culminated in 1993.

Mr. Khasbulatov and then Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi led a revolt which was put down by tanks. The rebellion leaders were arrested but were freed four months later under an amnesty by the new parliament.

Natalie Cole files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Natalie Cole, the award-winning rhythm and blues singer and daughter of Nat "King" Cole, filed for divorce Tuesday and sought a restraining order against her husband, Andre Fischer. The petition, filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court, cited irreconcilable differences. Cole's publicist was not available for further comment. Cole made her debut in 1975 as a blues vocalist, and went to the top of the pop charts with a single from her Inseparable album. She spent most of the 1980s in obscurity before making a comeback in 1991 with the ground-breaking Unforgettable, which used recordings of her late father's voice to create father-daughter duets of his greatest hits. The technique was recently used by the Beatles to reunite the three surviving members in a recording with the late John Lennon.

China launches nearly free pay TV

BEIJING (R) — China is launching what should be the world's cheapest pay television channels — costing just one yuan (\$0.12) a month for residents of poor, remote areas and three yuan (\$0.36) for those in rich regions. China central television on Nov. 30 will start test broadcasts on four new subscriber channels using newly acquired satellite technology with encrypted signals, China Daily said. One of the new pay channels will broadcast eight Chinese and foreign movies daily, while the culture and arts channel will feature music, cartoons, dubbed films and television series. China has more than 900 million television viewers.

China offers volleyball, beer to lure tourists

BEIJING (R) — China expects record tourism revenues in 1995 and is offering beach volleyball and beer festivals to attract more visitors, a top tourism official said. In 1995 foreign tourists are expected to spend \$8 billion in China and domestic tourists 110 billion yuan (\$13.25 billion), the China News Service quoted Liu Yi, director of the National Tourism Bureau, as saying. To keep up the momentum, China will organise a series of events next year, including beach volleyball in southern Beihai, a beer festival in eastern Qingdao and yachting, fishing, dragon boat and water sports festivals in various provinces, Mr. Liu said.

Prostitution on the rise in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Prostitution is rapidly growing and becoming more organised in China despite government attempts to curb the phenomenon, the Public Security Ministry said Monday. "The problem is worsening day by day" cases of prostitution and the number of prostitutes are increasing, the public security news reported. Of the 300,000 prostitutes arrested in 1994, half worked from a fixed place, the report said. Chinese triads and foreign gangs, which control gambling and drug trafficking, are increasingly involved in the sex industry, the ministry's official daily reported. Some police and Communist Party cadres are also involved and the rise in prostitution has led to an increase in venereal diseases and AIDS cases, the ministry said. This year the Public Security Ministry launched a nationwide campaign against prostitution. Between July and September in Beijing, 1,170 prostitutes and clients were arrested and 61 premises closed down.

Australia boosts arms spending, looks north

CANBERRA (R) — Australia would increase defence spending to the end of the century while moving into joint arms production with its Asian neighbours, Defence Minister Robert Ray said Wednesday.

With countries increasingly unable to produce all their own weapons and defence equipment because of high costs, Australia would have to join its neighbours, including Indonesia, in joint production, Mr. Ray told the National Press Club in Canberra.

"Within a decade...there'll be quite substantial equipment co-operation across the region," Mr. Ray said. "What's happened in Europe is that no country can basically afford to produce all its own defence equipment anymore. There is a potentiality in this region for us to do joint approaches."

Despite concerns in Asia, including among some groups in neighbouring Indonesia, Mr. Ray said Australia would continue concentrating its defences in the north of the country.

But he denied paranoia about an Asian invasion.

"The nearest country to our west is where? Mozambique...Our friend New Zealand is to our east, and then you get Chile," he

said. "To the south you get the penguins and Antarctica."

"Therefore, the one area Australia can and is likely to be attacked is from the north. Therefore, that's where you put your defensive network," Mr. Ray said.

"But that doesn't necessarily mean your nearest or next nearest neighbour is the threat. More likely, they could be your ally in repelling any potential threat. It doesn't reflect paranoia. It reflects geo-strategic circumstances."

Mr. Ray said Australia would boost real defence spending to the turn of the century, mainly to keep personnel and expertise in the face of growing competition from the private sectors.

"There will be a modest increase (in spending)...One to two per cent in real terms towards the end of the decade," he said.

He did not give a figure. But the government's 1995/96 budget estimates forecast defence spending of 9.99 billion Australian dollars (\$7.5 billion), rising to 10.86 billion Australian dollars (\$8.1 billion) in 1998/99.

From next year, Australia is introducing a five-year defence spending plan, giving it a long-term approach

and removing short-term political pressures, Mr. Ray said.

Although Australia's relatively advanced equipment levels were already sufficient, Mr. Ray said he would like an extra two locally-built Collins class submarines, beyond the six on order.

The possible submarine purchase would be considered next year as part of the new five-year budget strategy, he said.

Mr. Ray, who said a successful defence industry was vital to Australia's strategic interests, said he had been pushing for regional co-operation in military production for several years.

"We'll inevitably go that way, because of the economies of scale, for a desire of inter-operability of equipment...rather than buying it off the shelf from the United States or Europe..." he said.

Mr. Ray said the territorial row over the Spratlys, a potentially oil-rich island chain claimed by some of Asia's leading military powers, poses a major threat to regional security.

"It is, apart from the Korean peninsula, the most volatile and risky security situation that exists in our region," Mr. Ray told the

National Press Club.

"It exists because of the potential, I suspect, not only of national pride, but the possible discovery of oil," he said. "The best thing for the world would be that there be no oil."

The Spratlys, a group of mostly barren isles and partly submerged reefs, straddles strategic sea lanes in the South China Sea. Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam claim all or some of the group.

Mr. Ray said a series of informal workshops hosted by Indonesia over the past few years were constructive in heading off conflict in the Spratlys.

"I think the Indonesian mediation, setting up the workshops, is a very constructive step," he said.

Earlier this year, Beijing and Manila became embroiled in a military stand-off and diplomatic row over rival claims in the Spratlys.

Chinese and Vietnamese warships clashed in the Spratlys in the late 1980s.

Mr. Ray would not give an assessment of China's military threat over the Spratlys, but said it would be hard for the other claimants to accept Beijing's claim.

Bangladesh to hold parliamentary by-elections on Dec. 15

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's Election Commission Wednesday announced by-elections on Dec. 15 to fill seats vacated after opposition legislators who resigned a year ago to press for early general elections.

"Elections in 145 vacated seats will be held on Dec. 15," the commission said in a statement.

Nominations will have to be submitted on Nov. 24 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations will be Nov. 29, the commission said.

The move came despite warnings by opposition parties that they would not take part in any elections under the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, which they accused of rigging an earlier by-election and of sweeping corruption.

The opposition says no elections with Mrs. Khaleda in power will be free and fair. They want her to step down and allow elections supervised by a neutral caretaker administration.

Mrs. Khaleda has rejected the demands as unconstitutional. The next general election is not due before

March 1996. Mrs. Khaleda Tuesday offered to set up an interim national government to stage the next election in the hope of ending the country's long-running political crisis.

"Let us form an interim national government for the period of national elections. The opposition can cooperate in the formation of this government by contesting the upcoming by-elections," she said in a statement.

"If the opposition does not agree to go for the by-elections even in the interest of a compromise, I will advise the president to dissolve parliament."

The opposition Wednesday rejected Mrs. Khaleda's offer.

"This is only a ruse and nothing but a cunning move to buy time and fool the people," said Mohammad Nasim, a senior leader of the main opposition party, the Awami League.

"We have said time and again that opposition will not take part in any elections under Mrs. Khaleda Zia. She must create an atmosphere for elections by giving up power first."

Political analysts said announcing the by-election schedules might make the political situation more volatile.

"It will provoke opposition to sharpen their arsenal against Mrs. Khaleda's government," one analyst told Reuters.

Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Awami League, said Wednesday the opposition was planning to revive its campaign of strikes, blockades and shutdowns unless Mrs. Khaleda conceded to its demands.

"We relaxed our programmes after a successful six-day strike that ended on Nov. 16 to allow the schools to finish with annual examinations," she said.

"But the way the government is dealing with crucial issues, I am afraid we will be compelled to call for a total shutdown of road, rails and air traffic and stage a sit-in outside the prime minister's office and go for other non-stop programmes."

"Such programmes could start from Dec. 7 and will last until Khaleda is forced from power," Mrs. Hasina said.

Mr. Nasim said Mrs.

Hasina would work out her new strategies in consultation with her allies — the Jatiya Party and Jamaat-Islami — before she revealed her plans at a rally Friday.

Meanwhile a leader of the Jatiya Party said Wednesday the wife of Bangladesh's jailed ex-President Hossain Mohammad Ershad will press on with a six-day hunger strike demanding better medical care for her ill husband.

"She has refused to end the hunger fast," he said.

Begum Roushan Ershad and three other family members began a fast Thursday to pressure the government to move Mr. Ershad to a hospital from prison for treatment of acute jaundice.

"She told us and her doctors that she would rather die than see her husband die from lack of care," the leader said.

The Jatiya Party has called an eight-hour strike in Dhaka Saturday in protest at "indifference to Ershad's inhuman sufferings due to deliberate denial of his fundamental rights".

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Active involvement pays

THE SUCCESS of the peace talks between the warring factions in Bosnia can only be seen as a success for U.S. active policy that passionately sponsored and pursued the talks and also the parties themselves which have decided at the 11th hour to compromise for the sake of their respective peoples. After four years of a war of barbaric proportions, the U.S. was able to stitch together a deal that admittedly all the three sides, the Bosnians, the Serbs and the Croats, accepted as the least evil among all other options available to them.

In the final analysis it was the military stalemate that convinced the parties to sit together in Dayton and conclude an accord that they hope to live with, a stalemate that was the result of the more active NATO intervention at the insistence of the U.S. Without the forceful Western military intervention, the defiant Serbs would not have yielded to logic and foregone their military option.

The Dayton accord, though, is still an agreement on paper. What could give this peace deal an effective lease on life is the agreement to deploy some 60,000 NATO soldiers to police and implement it. The U.S. is expected to contribute some 20,000 American troops to this military contingent in a bid to show its determination to back its political undertakings by deeds. After all the Dayton deal was not only brokered by the U.S. but engineered by it all the way through. The accord has all the trademarks and footprints of Washington. Therefore, the reputation of President Bill Clinton and his administration is on the line if for one reason or another the agreement falters.

In retrospect, though, the Bosnians may have had a raw deal after all. With the Serbs and Croats each securing for themselves separate and sovereign republics outside Bosnia proper, the Bosnian Muslims have been confined to a semi-independent republic within a Croat-Muslim federation. While Bosnian territorial integrity has been preserved under the peace agreement with Sarajevo as its capital, in actual terms, the legitimate Bosnian government has been left with only partial power and control of the country. No wonder Bosnian President Ali Izetbegovic was holding out till the very end before he agreed to initial the deal.

On moral grounds, the world will be watching how effective the solemn undertaking of the accord to bring all war criminals to justice will be. The resolution of this aspect of the pact requiring the prosecution of all people who committed crimes against humanity or war crimes during the conduct of the war is as important as territorial settlement. The world attaches utmost importance to this dimension of the Bosnian conflict and joins the rest of mankind in its insistence that war criminals be apprehended and brought to justice in the most effective and expeditious manner. The least that the international community can do to compensate the Bosnian government for its losses on the negotiating table is to punish the notorious war criminals for their heinous crimes.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Ra'i daily Wednesday lauded the Islamic Action Fronts (IAF) condemnation of the car bomb blast in Islamabad which killed 16 people and wounded more than 60 others. The party spokesman Ishaq al Farhan has described the attack as harmful to Islam and the Muslim people, and would only intensify a hostile campaign against Islam, said Sultan Al Hattab. The writer said the time has come for similar voices to be raised condemning violence and terrorist actions claimed to be carried out by extremist Islamic groups and there is need to show the brighter image of Islam as a faith that advocates tolerance and peace. There is need for the sensible leaders to raise their voices and denounce terrorism and take action to stem its roots and so protect Islam and the interests and lives of the Muslim people, continued the writer. He voiced apprehension that the terrorists attacks, which started in Algeria and Egypt and then extended to Riyadh and Islamabad, could move elsewhere throughout the Arab region, and urged the government to preempt such situations by tightening security.

A COLUMNIST IN Al Dustour warned of the possibility that collaborators with Israel could succeed in obtaining Jordanian passports and come to settle in this country now that five year passports are available to the citizens of the occupied Arab lands. Mohammad Subeishi said that the collaborators have been rejected by the Palestinians, and Israel has failed to help them travel abroad because they hold no nationality or citizenship. The collaborators might see in Jordan a safe haven, and Jordanian citizens have no way of identifying any of them, said the writer, who urged the concerned authorities to clarify their position to the public and to make use of a black list containing the names of collaborators, in deciding on citizenship matters. The writer said that Israel was not likely to offer help in this matter because it is concerned with protecting its spies whose actions have resulted in the suffering of Palestinians.

The View from Academia

All or nothing

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

ONE OF the most troubling impediments to learning, in essentially all subjects, but especially in language learning, is the all-or-nothing attitude among many of our students. The problem, which I shall explore in detail in what follows, is deeply rooted in our present-day culture, which makes it the more "troubling" and difficult to deal with.

Let me illustrate by telling a couple of anecdotes. For a couple of years, I have been teaching a course in listening comprehension. The course is designed for second-year English majors (sophomores), most of whom need help and training in understanding language spoken by native speakers. As the listening and comprehension ability of many of our students is below the required level (and this is not surprising, for many of them have not been exposed to much English throughout their learning years), the aim is to expose them to as much English (through tapes, video cassettes, films, guest speakers, etc.) as possible.

Many students, I have found, benefit greatly from the course. Not only do they understand British and American English at the end of the course a lot more effectively and easily than at the beginning but they also speak it better. For many others, however, (20-30 per cent of the class in some cases), the benefit is either too insignificant to count or almost null.

I have made it a point to observe such students carefully, to confront them openly but kindly about their problem, and to discuss the matter with other colleagues. Undoubtedly, one main reason for the remarkable failure to benefit is the significant gap between the level of students' actual competence in the language, and the competence the course expects them to develop. It should be admitted here that even though nearly all of our students start learning English at the reasonable age of 10 (some way earlier), for reasons that we all know, many of them do not learn much (especially students who come from the relatively remote towns and cities whose teachers are themselves incompetent).

But the problem is also a problem of attitude. The material they are expected to cover in the said course is not that demanding and the approach is generally down to earth. All students need is serious attention in class, concentration, and some extra work in the lab or at home. Not too much to ask, right? Wrong. I say wrong because in our society it is in fact too much to ask or expect students (many students, that is) to be attentive and serious and to work part of the time on their own. What I have found out — from my own observation and from talking to students

and colleagues — is that students' awareness of the wide discrepancy between what they know and what they are required to know leads them to simply give up, in many cases before they even try. "What good is the little we learn?" "What is the use of knowing a few words or a few rules?" These and other dismissive questions reflect the negative (and erroneous) attitude many students at our educational institutions hold.

I have encountered the same attitude in another course. Since the beginning of this semester, I have been helping a group of students (30 of them) improve their English. The course is voluntary. The students signed up for it out of an urge to better their English and out of a desire to pass an exam which entitles them to be considered for admission to the English Department. There are no exams, no grades, and no pressure from the instructor — an ideal situation. That vast majority of them is weak in speaking, in reading, and in writing. But the vast majority is eager to learn.

Since the problems are tremendous, and since the territory to cover is so huge, I felt the best way is to focus on a few fundamental aspects of English, and make sure that the students not only understand what I give them but master it. What can one hope (realistically speaking) to cover in a few weeks with students who lack knowledge of the basics of English? I also felt (as I generally feel) that the main problem here lies not so much in knowing (or not knowing) but in mastering and applying. I decided therefore to give them a few rules about reading, a few sentence patterns, a few essential grammatical rules, a few punctuation marks and a few general guidelines (all piecemeal), and spend a great deal of time drilling and practicing. The idea is to give them a little in this course, a little in a future course, a little more in a third course, and so on (this is the best approach in my opinion with students to whom the learning of English, for all kinds of reasons, is a real trauma).

At the beginning, many of the students were somewhat disappointed. They had come with high expectations and wanted to learn a great deal: tonnes of words, tonnes of sentence patterns, loads of grammatical rules, and so on. They wanted to cure all their problems and fill in all the gaps in one course. It took me more than a month (of talking to them as a group and individually) to convince them that all they hope to achieve is to master some of the basics, and that such basics no matter how seemingly insignificant are in fact very significant. I said: all you need in order to write a good paragraph in English are a few

sentence patterns and a few punctuation rules. Too much knowledge can be counterproductive — a "dangerous thing," to quote part of Alexander Pope's famous line of poetry. Let's apply what we learn and master it once and for all. It was immensely difficult and time consuming, but a comfortable majority got the message. Some refuse to believe and accept this rationale until now.

Such an attitude is inherited from the culture at large. Families in our society, schools, the media, and many other institutions implant, nourish, and foster such an attitude, at times consciously and at times inadvertently. Many of our parents teach us, for example, that either we should pray perfectly well five times a day (without missing one single prayer) or we should not, that either we should be the first in our class in everything or not be at all, that we are either totally good or totally bad, that we either win or lose, that we either know everything or nothing. Look, for instance, at our TV and radio knowledge-testing contests. The hero of the episode is the one who knows all the answers (it turns out that many such heroes obtain the questions beforehand and memorise the answers). When we eat, we eat everything all at once, and as speedily as possible. The mansaf is an epitome and metaphor not just of how we eat, but how we live. First of all, we put everything on top of everything else: the bread, the meat, the leban, the rice, the parsley, the almonds, etc. Secondly, we sit down on the floor or stand around a table and in 10 minutes we gulp everything. Much of what we do or expect to do we want to do it in the same manner.

Most of the reservations (if not all) I have heard about the Palestinian-Israeli peace accords since Gaza-Jericho First boil down to the fact that the Palestinian territories are not to be returned all at once. Commenting on the Israeli handover of Jenin to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), a well-known (though not necessarily interesting) commentator in one of our Arabic dailies said cynically the other day: "What is the PNA in charge of in Jenin? Health services?" The other day also, I encouraged one of our students to take part in the activities of the English Club, which the students have been asking for for a couple of years. He said, "What can I contribute? I am graduating in six months?"

This all-or-nothing mode of thinking is a real problem in our society — a plague, in my opinion. To get rid of it, we need a great deal of brain-storming, hard work, team work, and dedication. Otherwise, it will continue to cripple much of our society's will to development and progress.

Bosnia pact keeps Clinton on a political roll

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON — From the budget to Bosnia, Bill Clinton had cause for celebration on Tuesday. But he will have to navigate the most treacherous political shoals of his presidency in order to claim success.

Selling a reluctant U.S. public and Congress on American troop participation in a Bosnia peacekeeping operation is perhaps Mr. Clinton's most daunting challenge. And even as he tackles this leadership test, he must hold his own in an ongoing power struggle with Republican leaders over budget policy that caused an unprecedented disruption of government operations for six days last week.

Polls indicate the Democratic president came out of that tussle in better shape than the Republicans. But tough new budget negotiations will parallel Mr. Clinton's effort to build support for his Bosnia policy. This could complicate an already uphill task. Reflecting public sentiment, the Republican-led U.S. House of Representatives voted 243-171 last week to prohibit Mr. Clinton from sending troops to help enforce a peace agreement unless Congress not only approves but sets aside money to fund them.

In announcing the breakthrough at the Dayton, Ohio, peace talks, Mr. Clinton said the United States would provide about one-third of the NATO implementation force — expected to number 60,000 — and that U.S. involvement was "essential."

Under a plan developed by NATO military commander Gen. George Joulwan, the 20,000 Americans would be concentrated in a key patch of Bosnia around Tuzla and in a corridor between that city and Sarajevo.

"The central fact for us Americans is this: Our leadership made this peace agreement possible, and helped to bring an end to the senseless slaughter of so many innocent people that our fellow citizens had to watch night after night for four long years on the television screens," he said.

"Now American leadership, together with our allies, is needed to make this peace real and enduring. Our values, our interests and our leadership all over the world are at stake." But Mr. Clinton is expected to have an even harder time making the case for sending troops to the Balkans than George Bush did getting the United States to wage war in the Gulf in 1991.

The blossoming of the 1996 U.S. presidential campaign could be yet another problem.

And at a time when Congress is looking to cut spending, it is not likely to be happy with paying an estimated \$1.5 billion for a one-year troop deployment and another \$500 million to help Bosnia rebuild.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich struck a conciliatory note on the troop deployment after the Dayton agreement was announced, saying he was willing to give Mr. Clinton "the benefit of the doubt" as commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

"I am not prepared to vote yes but I would discourage any member (of the House) from automatically voting no," the Georgia Republican said in New Hampshire.

Mr. Clinton will take his case to the people "as soon

as he's absolutely confident that we have every aspect of the mission buttoned up to his satisfaction, and when he's confident he can answer many of the questions he would anticipate." White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters on Tuesday.

Mr. McCurry declined to say whether Mr. Clinton was ready to run the biggest political risk of all, and send troops to Bosnia with our approval.

"I'm not entertaining the question at this point because the president is confident that he will make the case to the American people on why it's necessary, and he will enjoy that support that he expects to get from the American people," the spokesman said.

LETTERS

Ensuring an impressive future

To the Editor:

IN MY personal capacity as president of the Friends of Archaeology (FoA) Society, I would like to use the public columns of the Jordan Times to commend several government, private and international institutions and individuals that have worked together recently to strike a pioneering blow for the compatibility of modern development with conservation of our natural and cultural heritage. This occurred at the important antiquities site of Pella in the north Jordan Valley foothills, where the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, with the approval of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, had initiated construction work late last month on a water project. The project included the construction of four water pools and several other concrete structures in the central Wadi Jirm valley, along with fencing off the entire central wadi, in order to bring more drinking water to Irbid.

We were concerned about the negative environmental impact of the project, possible threats to the antiquities, and the fact that fencing off the entire central valley would have seriously ravaged the visual and spatial integrity of the Pella site, which the Wadi Jirm bisects. We thought that there had to be a better way to implement the water project, while also preserving the natural beauty of Pella. We decided on a quiet, low-key approach to resolving this dilemma.

Several Friends of Archaeology board members, along with members of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and the Friends of Environment-Jordan Society, made repeated private requests to concerned Jordanian officials to review the project design before irreversible work was completed. Other concerned individuals also added their voices to our appeal. In early November, the antiquities and water authorities agreed to our request for a brief pause in the work in order to explore the project's impact and possible alternatives. After several meetings were held in Amman and at Pella with all concerned parties, an alternative plan was suggested and was collectively approved earlier this week. This new plan will see the water works built completely underground, without need for concrete structures or fencing above ground. This solution is practical, cost-effective, and satisfies all concerned parties.

We are pleased that this compromise solution has been agreed upon. We feel that it sets an important precedent for consultations in other cases where modern development projects must be implemented at or near sites of archaeological importance or particular natural beauty. The FoA would like particularly to commend the following people

for their constructive and enlightened response to our appeal: Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib, Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irshaidat, Director of Antiquities Ghazi Bisheh, and Secretary-General of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Qosai Abdul Razzak. We appreciate the positive role of French Ambassador Bernard Bajole and his staff, and the roles played by Pam Watson, Jacques Seigne, Ammar Khamash, Enex Contracting Corporation and many others who were involved in achieving this very satisfying agreement.

The successes of the past, however, are most meaningful as platforms for greater successes in the future. The FoA board is following up this positive experience with a proposal to establish a formal system by which all construction projects in Jordan at or near antiquities sites, are reviewed in a public meeting during the design stage, well ahead of the start of construction. We would like to use this opportunity to invite the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to make use of the Friends of Archaeology Centre for such public meetings, where design engineers can present projects and the interested public can comment on them at a stage when changes can be made to avert any potential conflicts between development and conservation. This can be easily achieved through the combined creativity, technical skills, and goodwill of all concerned Jordanian and international parties, as we have just demonstrated.

We feel such an initiative is crucial today, given the major interest being expressed in new tourism and public works projects at sites such as Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Petra, Umm Qais, the northeast Dead Sea coast, Mount Nebo, and other sites. The demands of economic development and heritage conservation are very compatible. We feel that we finance new projects at or near antiquities sites to consider requiring environmental, archaeological and cultural impact statements before a project is fully approved and funded. We feel that this would be a positive reaffirmation of the principle that we have collectively validated at Pella: that public-private sector cooperation and transparency in project planning provide the vital foundation for sustainable socio-economic development and conservation of our natural and cultural heritage.

The ministries of tourism and antiquities, and water and irrigation, have acted with boldness, humility, courage and sensitivity in revising the Pella water project, and we feel that their constructive attitude needs to be recognised and applauded. It also needs to be built upon and institutionalised, so that our collective pioneering actions this month to harmonise development with conservation at Pella can become a routine procedure in the future growth and well-being of our entire country. We look forward to the antiquities to our offer to host public review meetings for planned new projects, and we will also follow up our related suggestion to donors and banks.

I would urge all concerned individuals and institutions

that wish to join our efforts for the promotion of culturally and environmentally sensitive economic development to consider joining our efforts at the Friends of Archaeology (tel: 696682) to ensure that our future is as impressive as our past.

Rami G. Khouri,
 President,
 Friends of Archaeology Society,
 Amman.

Foreign investment in Jordan?

To the Editor:

THE ABOVE mentioned subject has been very much talked about recently, especially in light of the peace process and the recent Amman summit. So much so that the euphoria at the prospect of billions of pounds pouring into the country was not uncommon.

Euphoria has its roots in emotionalism, and emotions are never the basis of sound investment. If we concentrate on the very important sector of manufacturing industry then we must expect the potential investor to compare Jordan with other locations like Turkey, Malaysia, Vietnam etc. The criteria for comparison would include local conditions such as: (1) Competence of ministries and other government departments. (2) Security. (3) Infrastructure. (4) Trained manpower and (5) Local costs.

An objective rating consultant would give Jordan the following ratings:
 (1) Competence of relevant government departments: At best indifferent and inefficient.
 (2) Security: Reasonable.
 (3) Infrastructure: Poor.
 (4) Local costs: Reasonable, if geographical aspects are taken into consideration.
 (5) Trained manpower: Non-existent. Vocational training centres and other institutions turn out persons trained in fields irrelevant to manufacturing.

The balance is negative. Some have been advocating the idea that the peace process presents a healthy challenge for us to "pull up our socks." If so, let us start by looking our situation in the face and refrain from the daily virtual farcical rhetoric about our "achievements and glories" in the technical and manufacturing fields. This is an indispensable first step along the path to improvement.

Dr. Omar Mango,
 General Engineering Industries Co., Ltd.
 Amman.

ER 23-24, 1995
Majdoubeh

Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, November 23, 1995 **A**
Published every Thursday

Society on the Move

Pioneer soars to new heights

JUST CALL HIM 'BASHA': When Nader Dahabi took over the "throne" at Royal Jordanian (RJ) as president and chief executive officer about 14 months ago, the 50-year-old Air Force officer was actually seconded to the post from the Jordan Armed Forces. Last week, along with several other officers, Mr. Dahabi was promoted to Major General, according to the title "Basha." Although Mr. Dahabi, as was his class of military colleagues, was due for the promotion, it was seen as a recognition of his many years of service to the Armed Forces and applauded by his fellow officers and his RJ associates and staff. Since assuming his responsibilities as head of RJ, Mr. Dahabi's primary goal has been to improve on services while reducing expenditures. He made sweeping changes to the positions of RJ regional and station managers around the world in his drive to promote his motto of "loyalty to the airline and not the individual." That may explain his most recent management appointment.



Nader Dahabi



Taghrid Akasheh

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S TAG!: Royal Jordanian's first and currently only woman pilot, Taghrid Akasheh, has been promoted to Vice President of Operations, succeeding Jihad Irshaid, who returned to being a line pilot. Captain Akasheh joined RJ as a flight engineer trainee in 1975. She soared through the ranks, having first been cleared as a Boeing 707 flight engineer to her clearance as a B 707 and Lockheed 1011 captain. "Tag," as she is fondly known, was seconded to the Royal Squadron from 1987 to 1990. Until her appointment last week, she has been check airwoman on the L1011. Under her wings now will be RJ's 340-strong, flying officers. Captain Akasheh is also said to have brought a young generation of RJ "go-getters" to her new environs. Her supporters say this move should add some fresh fuel to the

UNITED GOOD CAUSES: The United Nations Women's Guild of Jordan (UNWG) held its first general meeting for the 1995-96 year to which the group invited HRH Princess Basma to speak about women and development, the U.N. World Conference on Women and the role of non-governmental organisations in alleviating the prob-

lems of the underprivileged people of Jordan. Under the chairmanship of newly-elected UNWG Board President Alka Ben Raza, the meeting also heard from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director Sunjini Vitachi who shared some of her many experiences during her 10 years in the region with UNICEF. Ms. Vitachi is retiring soon from the U.N. The UNWG, whose members are representatives of United Nations and wives of U.N. staff persons, announced plans to launch a scholarship in Jordan in the field of women and development. According to Mrs. Raza, who is a journalist with Mexican Television and is married to U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) officer Shariq Ben Raza, the UNWG will also continue to support charities in the Kingdom. For many of the members, balancing work and home responsibilities is a feat in itself, but the UNWG also provides them with leisure time to meet and mingle with other U.N. "sisters" over a game of scrabble or bridge, for the outdoor lover, hiking, and for the more heady, book-reading. What these women may not have discovered yet are art lessons with Aziz Ammoura.

married to UNRWA Director/Jordan Ele Saaf. Tete Wegelius was a drawing competition winner at age 16. She studied fashion drawing at Gota Tradgard School in Stockholm, Sweden and oil painting at the School of Fine Art in Beirut. Mrs. Wegelius is vice consul of Finland and is married to George Wegelius, regional manager for the Middle East of Kymmene-oy of Finland, Europe's largest forestry company. All three women exhibited jointly two years ago, also at the RCC, and showed their works in a larger exhibit with several other artists last year at Ab'ad Gallery. Their upcoming exhibition will run through Dec. 5.

DONUTS TO GO: Another lady making the news, but from as far away as New York, is 11-year-old Shirley McKay who wrote to the Royal Jordanian offices in the "Big Apple" to ask for some information about Jordan. Her letter was just too priceless to paraphrase: "Dear Sir/Madam: I am 11-years-old and I'm learning about your country. I would like to know if you could send me some brochures, posters, pictures, and even some Jordan donuts so I can share them with my class. Thank you." Although accustomed to our own errors, we admit we were stamped on this one, until RJ's New York Office Director Bill Connors wrote that Shirley actually meant "dinars."

Jennifer Hamarneh

Spanish diet at risk from legacy of Franco's death

By Joelle Diderich
Reuters
MADRID — The death of Francisco Franco opened Spain to Anglo-Saxon fads and cultural trends which the dictator had sheltered it from. Now another bastion of this fiercely individualistic nation — its diet — may be about to fall. Spaniards are almost obsessive about what they eat, but nutritionists are becoming worried that American-style "junk" food is taking over the menu. U.S. films, which account

for 80 per cent of cinema-goers' fare, coupled with advertising and an increase in the number of women working, have all affected Spanish eating habits. A leading food expert, Jesus Roman Martinez, says Spaniards are increasingly eating fatty, overprocessed Anglo-Saxon foods rather than the fresh fruit, vegetables and fish which make up the traditional Mediterranean diet. "People don't cook as much," says Mr. Martinez, who heads the Spanish Society of Dietetics and

Alimentary Sciences. "There is an abundance of restaurants with dishes that differ from the traditional, and above all there is an influence from the Anglo-Saxon diet through advertisements and the cinema." Some of the younger generation are ditching the traditional Cocido — a hearty stew that can include anything from meat, bacon and chickpeas to vegetables and fish — for the convenient pleasures of a burger with fries. Many fast food outlets offer sandwiches filled with

fresh ingredients, but McDonald's — seen as a symbol of encroaching American culture — is taking a growing market share and has ambitious expansion plans for the next few years. The U.S. burger chain forecasts its Spanish subsidiary will serve 50 million customers in 1995 and 75 million next year. It plans to have 100 branches by the end of this year, twice the number in 1992, and aims to reach 210 by 1998. Sociologist Amando De Miguel says dietary imbalances occur because of eating out, an increase in single-person households, an obsession with slimming, little time or inclination to cook, and alcohol abuse. The number of working women more than doubled to 35 per cent in 1992 from 17 per cent in 1972, when Gen. Franco's vision of their role restricted many to home and hearth. Fresh produce markets and small shops have seen their trade dwindle as working couples turn to large supermarkets whose open-

Imagined colonisation of the Balqa

The Land of Gilead
By Laurence Oliphant
Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons, 1880

Laurence Oliphant was no ordinary traveller; nor is *The Land of Gilead* simply a travelogue. On his journey to Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Jordan in the 1880s, Oliphant's primary aim was mapping out the parameters of a colony intended to serve British and Ottoman interests. The fact that the settlers were to be European Jews identifies Oliphant as a Christian Zionist. In her book *Non-Jewish Zionists* (Zed Press, 1983), Regina Sharif identifies Oliphant as a British MP and foreign service officer, who initiated the first contacts between Jewish and non-Jewish Zionists. He also presented his ideas to the Ottoman authorities. Had Oliphant's plan been implemented, the Biblical Land of Gilead, i.e., northwest Jordan, would have been singled out for colonisation. Reading his book leaves the distinct impression that given a slightly different twist of fate, East Bankers rather than West Bankers might have been deprived of their most fertile land and rendered refugees. In fact, Jordan might never have been constituted as a modern state. In Oliphant's eyes, the Balqa offered "the finest territory for agricultural and pastoral purposes in the whole of Palestine, while it is the only province where there are no legal occupiers of the soil, and no settled population" (p. 269), except for Salt. He believed that if the Balqa "became the property of a land company formed under the sanction of the Turkish government... the whole country would soon become more or less dependent on the colonial administration, which could thus gradually and beneficially extend the sphere of its operations..." (p. 291). Oliphant proposed buying Ajlun province for £50,000, and rejoiced when Kerak was brought under Ottoman control, as this would allow for the future colony's expansion southwards. Sharing the Zionist dream of "a land without a people for a people without a land," Oliphant's descriptions of the Land of Gilead are spectacular, but his accounts of the population are generally superficial, if not downright racist. Wherever he went, he classified farmers, villagers and town-dwellers by their religion or simply as inhabitants, reserving the term Arab for bedouins, although it can be assumed that the majority of the former types were also Arabs. Oliphant noted the similarity in appearance between Christians, Muslims, bedouins, etc., but blinded by his particular Christian version of Zionism, he singled out the bedouins as "the Arabs," viewing them as invaders who had allegedly "laid waste to this country, ruined its villages, and plundered its inhabitants." He advocated that they be "driven back to the Arabian deserts

BOOK REVIEW

from which they came" (p. 285). Of course, his racist, ahistorical attitude was self-serving for it justified his aim of dispossessing the native people. As in Zionism's real history, this would not happen without repression and military force: Oliphant suggests that "the same system might be pursued which we have adopted with success in Canada with our North American Indian tribes, who are confined to their 'reserves'..." "Others, like the Beni Sakhr, 'should be driven back across the Hadj road' where the Ottoman army would 'keep them in check'" (p. 286). For anyone who appreciated Jordan as an Arab country, the only enjoyment to be derived from Oliphant's book is his descriptions of its natural and archaeological treasures. In particular, he relates two incidents which we are not able to experience today. He went for a swim in the Zarka River, remarking: "I have never seen any stream so full of fish..." (p. 250). And he visited Amman soon after the arrival of the first Circassian refugees, who were living in the Roman Theatre and nearby caves. Here he saw a panorama of ancient Ammon, encompassing Ammonite, Greek, Roman and Byzantine ruins, which today's urban development has buried and blocked from our view. The book published in England over 100 years ago has major relevance today, according to Dr. Ahmad Owaid Abbadi who recently translated it for publication in Arabic. The *Land of Gilead* is the ninth book pertaining to Jordan in the 19th or early 20th century to have been translated by the former Member of Parliament, who is a political commentator and professor of anthropology and politics. In making such books accessible to the Arabic readership, Dr. Abbadi aims to provide "a full image of Jordanian society and a reconstruction of the pure Jordanian ecology and society" as it existed in the past. The fact that the author, Laurence Oliphant, advocated Jewish colonisation of "The Land of Gilead" gave Dr. Abbadi an added incentive. "I found this book interesting because it shows the projects of the Zionists... the ambitious colonisation they were planning, which had an imperialist tendency from the beginning," says Dr. Abbadi. "This sheds light on the future of our country, and future generations should be aware of the dangers surrounding them."

Sally Bland

Thoughts for the week

- The trouble is that hardly anybody in America goes to bed angry at night — George J. Stigler, American economist 1911-1991.
- The most fatal illusion is the settled point of view. Since life is growth and motion, a fixed point of view kills anybody who has one — Brooks Atkinson, American drama critic (1894-1984).
- The greater the philosopher, the harder it is for him to answer the questions of common people — Henry Sienkiewicz, Polish author (1846-1916).
- There is a coherent plan in the universe, though I don't know what it's a plan for — Sir Fred Hoyle, English astronomer-author (1915).
- Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem (entities should not be multiplied unnecessarily) — William of Occam, English philosopher 1290-1349. (Known as Occam's razor, a modern version of this principle of logic might be: the simpler, the better.)
- How awful to reflect that what people say of us is true — Logan Pearsall Smith, Anglo-American essayist (1865-1946).
- The great temptation is to have an alibi — George Abbott, American theatrical producer.
- The time on either side of "now" stands fast — Maxine Kumin, American poet.
- If your neighbour is an early riser, you will become one — Albanian proverb.
- A definition is no proof — William Pinkney, American diplomat (1764-1822).
- If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered — Stanley Kubrick, American movie director (1928).
- Life does not count by years. Some suffer a lifetime in a day, and so grow old between the rising and the setting of the sun — Augusta Jane Evans, American novelist (1835-1909).
- The world has no sympathy with any but positive griefs; it will pity you for what you lose, but never for what you lack — Anne Sophie Swetchine, Russian-French author (1782-1857).
- We are what we pretend to be so we must be careful what we pretend to be — Kurt Vonnegut, American author (1922-).
- Anybody can make history. Only a great man can write it — Oscar Wilde (1854-1900).
- Temperament is temper that is too old to spank — Charlotte Greenwood, American actress-comedian (1893-1978).
- Great events make me quiet and calm; it is only trifles that irritate my nerves — Queen Victoria, British monarch (1819-1901).
- Who will give me back those days when life had wings and flew just like a skylark in the sky? — Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, French actress and poet (1786-1859).
- Only the mediocrities of life hide behind the alibi "in conference." The great of this earth are not only simple but accessible — Isaac Frederick Marcossou, American journalist (1876-1961).

Hanging one more year on the line

By Jean-Claude Elias

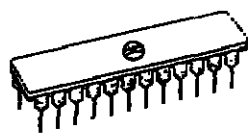
CHIP TALK is exactly three years old this month. It is perhaps one of the longest serving, uninterrupted regular columns in the Jordan Times has featured so far. Often readers, friends (and editors-in-chief as well) ask me if there are still new computer topics to cover, and what do I do to come up with a different idea every week. If they only knew! Nothing could be easier. So many things are constantly happening in the world of Information Technology (IT) that one subject a week would hardly be enough to cover all computer-related events and news. But of course, this is not a specialised magazine but a daily newspaper and its Weekender is a good place to entertain you while keeping you informed.

In the world of notebook computers for instance, the IT is currently breathing new life into these machines that some used to consider as just a little more than expensive toys. From the point of view of raw processing power notebooks have always followed closely their desk top, full-sized big brothers. Whenever a new processor was launched (like the Pentium for example), its notebook equivalent would be produced almost simultaneously.

Notebooks therefore had the power plus the advantage of portability and lightweight. The size of an A4 sheet of paper but five centimetres thick, these small wonders weigh less than four kilograms and are heaven sent for travelling businessmen, or simply for all those who would lose sleep without a computer always by their side.

The main limitations of those small computers have been mainly the quality of the display and the lack of flexibility to add optional board, adapters and components. New high-end notebooks feature super high resolution colour screens, highly contrasted for clear, sharp vision and a comfortable ten-inch diagonal viewing area. There is a noticeable difference in quality (and a painful one in

chip talk



price as well) between the dual-scan and the active colour systems, the latter being much superior to the former.

The PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Component) Interface Adapter — enjoys the new acronym, a credit-card size adapter that plugs into a notebook's special slot, opens the door to limitless number of options that were so far the privilege of large desk top PCs. Fax cards, cellular phones, SCSI adapters (Small Computer System Interface to connect certain models of hard disk drives and CD-ROMs, scanners, and other sophisticated peripherals), MIDI music adapters, external drives, all are available now to the notebook owner thanks to PCMCIA cards.

Because of the improved displays and the PCMCIA system, sales of notebooks have sharply risen since the beginning of the year. The only relative disadvantage of portable computers compared to desk top models remains the price. For the same characteristics, notebooks are about 30 per cent more expensive than regular table top units.

What will the winds of change bring us next? Whatever it may be, users, complaining of too many sudden changes should think of writers like yours truly. The same speed of change that could be viewed as a curse by some actually is a blessing for us for it carries endless amounts of ideas to write about.

An unbearable lightness of being

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

As far as our knowledge is concerned, Earth remains an alien planet. This is true because there remains so much about our planet that we do not yet know. For example, in addition to the many living species that have been scientifically documented, there remains millions and millions of species that we know next to nothing about.

It remains true however that there are a lot of things out there that we know enough about to be able to handle carefully and do well. We can, for example, make terrific movies about love and adventure. At least some of us can anyway. Some are even lucky enough to take part in such uplifting productions.

One such film is about a twenty three year-old American who goes Inter-Railing in Europe after having broken-up with a girlfriend studying in Madrid.

Once on the train, and somewhere between Budapest and Vienna, he meets a French girl making her way back to Paris by train because she is, by her own admission, afraid of flying and constantly dreams of an aeroplane nose-diving.

The two of them get talking and by the time that train pulls up to the station in Vienna, one senses an attraction between the two. He asks her to join him in Vienna for the day because he only has a few hours before taking a flight back to the States and because he was planning to spend this time walking around the city, something more enjoyable if done together. And that is exactly what they do as they have a wonderful time exploring Vienna and their feelings for one another.

Certainly this is not your usual boy meets girl situation. Intertwined with all the usual clichés, are some clear indications about taking chances, about having a sense of adventure, about love, and above all, about exploring uncharted territories.

Another exciting imaginary situation cropped up recent-

ly in a Spanish novel I have been reading. Set in the future, in the year 2041 to be precise, the story was about the imminent human colonisation of the planet Mars. The Martians, whose existence is acknowledged half way through the novel, act in a most civilised manner to make their demands and rights understood by the so-called 'Earth Government' of that time. Eventually, the latter party concedes to the demands that nothing be done to alter or endanger existing life forms on Mars and coexistence proves to be the most plausible reality. The 'treaty' signed owed a great deal to the unrelenting work and talent of a television reporter and journalist with a taste for adventure.

Another such scenario of good versus evil and the triumph of the good can be found in a Scandinavian novel for children written by the Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. The novel, Mio, My Son, was published in Arabic earlier this year by the Stockholm based Dar Al Muna publishing house. Just one in a long list of titles translated to Arabic over the years, this book aims, as did all the others, to place Arab children on an equal footing with their counterparts in the various European countries where the same books have been translated and published. But with bigger and better things on the way, the big question that remains is what can we do to encourage our children to read more?

In all, the weight of unbearable responsibility lies heavy on every move we make. But the heavier this burden becomes with time, the more we can expect our lives to come closer to earth and maybe, in the middle of all this, we can help make the lives of our children become more real and truthful than ours have been. Our children have to be taught about choice, about making the right choices, taught to be self-reliant and brave, and to want to learn more about things, to be amateurs, to be interested in all things.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I'm sorry I couldn't get here on time.
Aasif lam astati' al-wusool ela hama fil-waqtil munaseh.
- I had to go to the dentist yesterday but I forgot all about it.
Kana alayya an ath'hab ela tabbil'asnan al-baareha, haakinnani naseet kulla shay'en hawi thalek.
- Can you show me the way to the bus-stop, please?
Hal tastati' an tureeni al-tareeq ela mawqif al-bass, min fadlik?
- You cannot leave this room until you get permission.
La tastati' an tughadir haathihil ghurfa hat'ta tahsul ala ithn.
- I'll meet you at the church at 4 p.m. on Monday next.
Sawfa oqaabiluka endal kaneesa assa'a ar-raabe'a massa'an yawmul ithuaynil muqbil.
- I always feel tired at the end of the day.
Ash'or daa'imani bitta'ab fee nehayatin'nahar.
- I think someone is knocking at the door. Go and let him in.
Athonnou anna shakhsan yadokkku hab. Ith'hab wada'hu yadkhul.

JOKES

* WHEN it was time for the guilty to be sentenced to death, Ashmawi, the executioner, was extremely teased every time he tried to tie the rope round the vinct's neck. The guilty person got furious and said:
"Eh, eh, what's wrong with you, man? Did you come here to hang me or to play?"

* A FARMER once went with his wife to buy a ticket at a railway station.
FARMER: "We want two tickets?"
CLERK: "What tickets?"

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

MOHAMMAD A. SHUQAIR

FARMER: "One for a man and another for a woman!"

FOCUS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

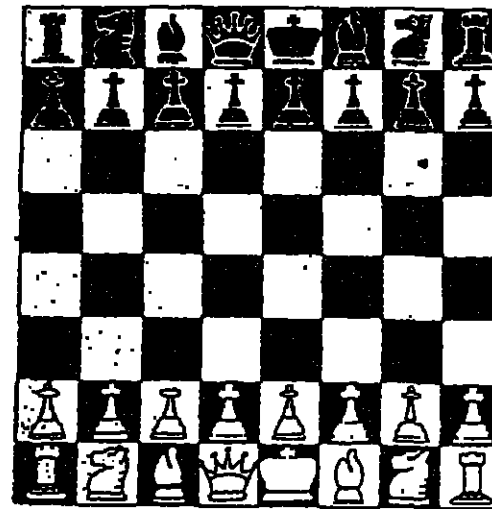
TOWERING above New York harbour, the Statue of Liberty has been a symbol of hope and freedom for millions of immigrants for nearly a century. The 305ft statue and base was a gift from the people of France, money being raised by voluntary contributions of French citizens to mark the centenary of the American Revolution in 1876.

She was inspired by an unknown girl shot down by the military whilst demonstrating for her own political freedom in the streets of Paris over 100 years ago. The sculptor, Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, when asked to sculpt a giant statue, remembered the girl carrying a flaming torch when he saw her shot. A massive iron pylon embedded in the rock forms the backbone of the figure, inspired by the unknown French



girl. The face is ten feet wide and forty people can stand in the interior of the head, the torch bearing arm is forty feet long and the torch platform can hold twelve people. The actual statue from foot to torch is 152ft and weighs 450,000 lbs and stands on a 62ft square base, the overall height is 305 ft 6 ins (nearly as high as St. Paul's Cathedral) and erection was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland in 1886.

HOBBIES



CHESS

CHESS is an ancient game of uncertain origin; it seems

likely it was first played in India, and introduced into Persia (Iran) in the 6th cent. A.D. The date and manner of its introduction into Europe are also obscure, but there is no reliable evidence that it was played earlier than the 11th cent. The modern form of the game dates from the 16th century, and the earliest important work on the subject was written in 1561 by a Spaniard, Ruy Lopez de Segura, whose name is honoured in a famous opening. It is played on checkered board with 32 chessmen divided between 2 players, moved according to conventional manoeuvres.

PUZZLE

WORD BARGAIN

In this Puzzle you get two for one — that is two uses for the same word in each sentence.

Example: When I wear blue I feel blue.

1. Dump the coffee..... anywhere on the
2. Some dogs will even at the of a tree.
3. Cars and rhinos both have
4. Debby's were fixed on the of the potatoes.
5. Don't play..... in the
6. He set the of the clock with his
7. When the ship's bells....., put the on your finger.
8. She was wearing a when she made that of the tongue.
9. Don't in the bus station when you buy your round..... ticket.
10. The will out of the window when you open it.

Thursday, Nov. 23, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:20 Fireman Sam
- 1:30 My Secret Identity
- 2:00 NBA
- 3:00 The New Leave It To Beaver
- 3:30 Football match Juventus vs. Borussia Dortmund
- 5:00 French Programme Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Varieties Cest Votre Vie
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine Archimede
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Carol And Company
- 8:00 Futures
- 8:15 The Album Show
- 9:10 The New Avengers
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — "Hoodwinked" Starring: Robert Mitchum & Ernst Borgnine
- 12:00 The Thorn Birds

Friday, Nov. 24, 1995

- 1:00 The Little Mermaids
- 1:30 Beethoven
- 1:45 Lift-Off
- 2:00 Bush School
- 2:25 Space Rangers
- 3:15 Goldrush In Alaska
- 4:05 Movies, Games And Videos
- 5:00 French Programme Sophie Et Virginie
- 5:30 Telefilm Soleil D'Automne
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine Sports Et Musique

- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 Natural Wonders Of Europe
- 8:45 America's Funniest People
- 9:10 Wolf
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Pride And Prejudice (Part II)
- 11:30 Movie — "Anna Karenina" Starring: Greta Garbo & Frederic March

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Saturday, Nov. 25, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:30 Football Match Spartak Moscow vs. Blackburn Rovers
- 5:00 French Programme Fractales
- 5:30 Magazine Omnisciences
- 6:00 Drama Cest Mon Histoire
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine Faut Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Major Dad
- 8:00 First Flights
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie: "All Night Long" Starring: Gene Hackman & Barbara Streisand
- 11:50 L'histoire Secrete Du Petrole
- 12:30 My Good Friend

Sunday, Nov. 26, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:25 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:00 Family Playhouse
- 3:30 Football Match FC Porto vs. Nantes
- 5:00 French Programme Fractales
- 5:30 Serie Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Document Le Feu De La Terre
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine Sports Et Musique
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Nurses
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema
- 8:25 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 9:10 Varieties

- 9:30 Heartbeat
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Counter Strike
- 11:15 Anastasia
- 12:00 My Two Wives

Monday, Nov. 27, 1995

- 2:00 Shelly Duvall's Bedtime Stories
- 2:30 Play About Hey Dad
- 2:45 Nature World Of Mitsuki
- 3:05 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:00 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme Fractales
- 5:30 Serie Madame Le Proviseur
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine Nimbus
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 McHale's Navy
- 8:00 Inventions
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Inspector Morse
- 12:00 The American Chart Show

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1995

- 2:00 Captain Planet
- 2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
- 3:15 Run The Gauntlet
- 4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion
- 4:30 Sky Trackers
- 5:00 French Programme Fractales
- 5:30 Serie Fruits Et Legumes
- 6:00 Documentary Croisiere A La Decouverte Du Monde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine
- 7:30 News Headlines

7:35 You Bet Your Life

8:00 The Secret Of The Treasure Islands

8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:10 True Blue

10:00 News In English

10:30 Movie: "Gun Smoke"

Starring: James Arness & Milbrun Stone

12:00 Never Come Back (Part II)

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1995

2:00 Inspector Gadget

2:55 Ghost Writer

3:00 Tomorrow's World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 The Adventures Of The Black Stallion

4:30 Sky Trackers

5:00 French Programme Fractales

5:30 Jeux

Le Trophée Campus

7:00 Le Journal

7:15 Magazine

Sports Et Musique

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Anything For A Laugh

8:00 Amazing Races

8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 Law And Order

11:30 Second Thoughts

U.K. celebrates 100 years of cinema

By Jim Kelsey

In 1895, "Le Train arrive" was one of the first films ever to be screened publicly. The venue was Le Grand Café in Paris and the cameramen were August and Louis Lumière. The huge steam engine descends on the camera with terrifying speed, but at the original screening the paying audience did not wait to see the ladies and gentlemen, resplendent in their elegant travelling gear, alight from the carriages. Many fainted: the rest fled from the auditorium in fear of their lives.

With the Prince of Wales as its patron, and Lord Auchenborough as chairman, Cinema 100 is organising a variety of events throughout 1995/96 in the U.K. to commemorate the birth of world cinema. The celebrations range from education packs for schools to regional exhibitions, bioscope shows, and plaques marking the places associated with the U.K.'s cinema history.

Plaques will go up at Carnforth station in Lancashire, northern England, where "Brief Encounter" was filmed and London's Polytechnic cinema where the Lumière films were first seen by Londoners in 1896. Over the next few months, the BBC and commercial television stations will screen programmes devoted to the history of the silver screen — a world of magic and escapism — as well as notable movies made over the past 100 years. EMI will issue a double album devoted to movie songs and themes.

At London's Museum of

the Moving Image (MOMI), a fascinating serpentine gallery devoted to the art of the cinema, a special exhibition is already paying homage to the international pioneers who, by transporting the viewer to a world of fantasy and make-believe, really did make dreams come true.

On Dec. 28, 1995, Le Grand Café is being dramatically reconstructed in the Museum and the sepia, flickering prints of 11 silent films made by the Lumière brothers will be screened again, commemorating world cinema's 100th birthday. But that date is challenged by the Germans who have their own claim to cinema history in the brothers Max and Emil Skladanowsky, who gave their first film shows to a paying public at Berlin's Wimmergarten on Nov. 1, 1895.

News Event

Also on show at MOMI will be a fragment of a first movie of a news event — the boat race on the Thames, shot on March 30, 1895 by Robert William Paul (regarded as the father of the British film industry) and Birt Acres. Acres it was who presented the first-ever performance of films, including the 1895 Derby, in London on Jan. 14, 1896.

All the historic films will be screened authentically using equipment from the 1890s. Other U.K. inventions include a copy of the first colour film, Kinemacolor, patented by George Albert Smith in 1906, and Eugene Lauste's "sound on film" systems

which came six years later. MOMI's birthday celebrations include lectures and screenings of newly-restored silents made in the last century. In July 1995, the Museum will show a Lumière projector and there will be a three day practical workshop in August where participants will be invited to make a film with an 1890s' camera. "Pre-cinema and the beginning of Film" is the title of a ten-day summer school which concentrates on the identification, conservation and restoration of early film and artefacts.

Lantern Slides

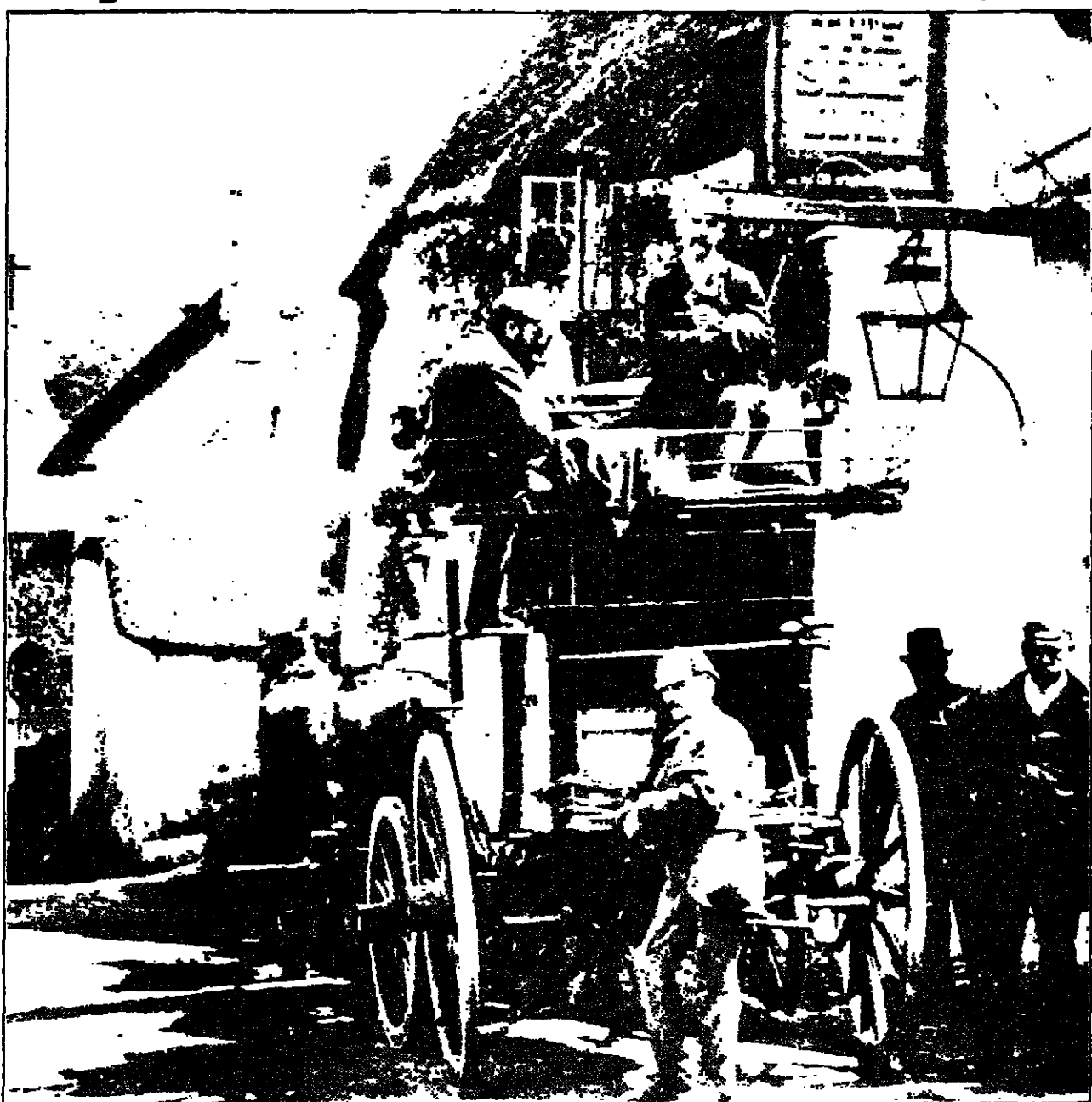
The Museum's ever changing exhibitions chart movie history from magic lantern slides of 200 years ago to the stroboscope, zoetrope and thaumatrope invented to show moving images in the 1820s. America's George Eastman is featured with the Kodak camera he developed in 1888 and by using 24 of them plus trip wires, British photographer Edward Muybridge proved that a horse does indeed lift all its feet off the floor momentarily when trotting. Why was that important in cinema history? It was something that could not be detected by the human eye so Muybridge's experiment opened the door to quick-sequence screen photography which became possible with Thomas Edison's invention of the motion picture camera in 1889.

The MOMI exhibition recalls how American movie-makers, still reliant on daylight lighting for their films, moved to sunny

California to establish Hollywood. But it was D.W. Griffith's 1915 epic, "Birth of a Nation," that revolutionised movie making. With imaginative lighting the director introduced the close-up, the flash-back, fade-in, fade-out and the star system. Mary Pickford was the first actress to receive world adulation followed by Valentino, Lillian Gish, Gloria Swanson and passionate vamps such as Theda Bara, Nazimova, Zasu Pitts and Pearl White.

By 1927, the industry was already well established in the U.K. Europe and America when Al Jolson blacked his face and got on his knees to sing Mamma in "The Jazz Singer." The silent movies with their piano accompaniment and screen titles were over: "talkies" became big business. Although the MOMI story does not mention it, films became the most potent persuader of social behaviour ever invented by man. Hollywood taught the world to smoke, influenced life styles, hair styles and fashion and still remains one of the most powerful propaganda machines of all time.

Like the adjacent two National Film Theatres which will also be holding centenary programmes, the £12 million glass-and-steel, three-floored MOMI is ingeniously housed beneath the arches of Waterloo Bridge on London's South Bank. With its own cinema and 44 exhibition areas — replicas of early make-shift studios vie for attention with ticket booths for "the twopenny rush," costumes, the antics of Chaplin and



Birt Acres, pipe in hand, sits on top of a carriage arriving at what is believed to be a photographic club in Barnet, near London, where he gave the first presentation of films in Britain on Jan. 10, 1896. Acres, who had worked with Robert William Paul in developing projectors, quarrelled with his colleague and retired from the infant film industry.

Buster Keaton — MOMI is a cineaste's delight. It has its own company of actors who play directors, cameramen and make-up artists who, besides preparing you for a screen test, will rehearse you for that famed cinematic line: "I'm ready for my close-up, Mr. De Mille" — London Press Service Feature.

Sydney-Wood film studio to be one of the world biggest

SYDNEY (AFP) — Media magnate Rupert Murdoch is to build the biggest film studios in the world outside Hollywood on a prime site here costing two million Australian dollars (\$1.5 million) a year, New South Wales State Premier Bob Carr said.

Details of the project, described by Mr. Carr as "a major win for this country," were revealed as 300 demonstrators stopped the traffic on the street outside his state parliament to protest about the studios.

Most were residents of homes surrounding the land, formerly the Sydney showground, who object to film studio and entertainment complex already

dubbed "Sydney-Wood", complete with fast food outlets and noisy fun-shows.

The project, which represents an 11-year, \$120 million investment for New South Wales, will generate 1,600 direct and indirect jobs a year and generate around \$85 million in production, Mr. Carr said.

The total value to the state would exceed \$200 million a year after five years and the complex would make Sydney, home to "the biggest film studios in the world outside the United States," he said.

"This is a strategic gain in planning and investment terms for the state," Mr. Murdoch, chairman of News Corp., would pay a

minimum of \$2 million, or five per cent of gross yearly takings, whichever is greater, subject to a four-yearly review.

The Australian-born tycoon would also benefit from what Mr. Carr described as a "modest" \$7.8 million incentive package including land tax, payroll and stamp duty concessions.

The 40-year lease, which is expected to be signed shortly, would commence from early next year, with a 10-year option.

Mr. Carr said the studio would be fully operational by the end of 1997.

The fox group would begin paying rent from when it took full occupation

of the site in 1999.

The film studios would occupy not less than 10 hectares (25 acres) of the 29 hectare (72 acre) site with an additional three or four hectares to be occupied by the entertainment complex.

Mr. Carr told reporters he was confident critics of the project — including those demonstrating on the street outside — would be silenced when they saw the benefits inherent in the development.

"It will be like every other significant project," Mr. Carr said. "When it's finished and when people see it they'll be delighted, and that goes for people who live in the region."

Ken Russell: Living proof that nothing succeeds like excess

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

LONDON — Ken Russell, dubbed the oldest "infant terrible" in the film world, is living proof that the age of 68 that nothing succeeds like excess.

He has changed Long John Silver into a woman in his new production "Treasure Island." His latest life plays the pirate as a boss between Mae West and Marilyn Monroe.

Henry Baynes wears an official leg while singing and dancing in the musicalisation of the children's story for British television. The parrot on her shoulder is stuffed.

He creator of erotically charged films like "Women in Love" and "The Devils" has had three wives and 11 children. Critics can work as overblown but as busy as ever.

of Stevenson to have an all-male cast of pirates," Russell said.

The reworking doesn't stop there. "The Admiral Benbow Inn is now the One-Arm Bandit and Long Jane dances with a crew of snow-white style sea cooks like Slezzy and Speedy."

Traditionalists may shudder but the old warhorse of British cinema, who first made his name in the 1960's with sensitive television bio-pics of famous composers, isn't the slightest bit worried.

Wearing a strawbery jacket to match his florid complexion and sporting white hair that makes him look like an alternative Father Christmas, Russell sits contentedly in an Italian restaurant in Soho, London's sex centre.

The man famed for his bizarre sex images on celluloid happily ticks off the string of projects he has lined up.

First comes a French-Polish co-production. Then he is off to direct two films in Hollywood. He is doing a 12-part radio series on film music. He is hosting a music

cruise around the Mediterranean. He is visiting professor of film at the Southampton Institute in the English port city where he was born.

Music remains his first love: "If I had been a great conductor, I wouldn't be making films. But as I cannot read a note of music, there is little chance of that."

His critical reputation has been on the slide since the heyday of his acclaimed films like "Billion Dollar Brain" with Michael Caine and "The Boy Friend" with Twiggy.

He is defiant: "I don't care what they say. I care for five seconds. People wouldn't want to see my films if they thought they were crap. The Americans and the French don't have a problem with me. It is only the English critics."

Few can forget the taboo-breaking scene of Alan Bates and Oliver Reed wrestling naked by the fire in the 1969 version of D.H. Lawrence's "Women in Love."

Double Oscar winner Glenda Jackson, a stalwart of his early box office suc-

cesses, says: "Any opportunity to work with Ken must be grasped with both hands."

Russell married Baynes, 30 years his junior, in a ceremony he scripted himself. The couple were sprinkled with earth, incense and sea water. They now have a two-year-old son.

He married his second wife, photographer Vivian Jolly, on the Queen Mary at Long Beach. Actor Anthony Perkins of "Psycho" fame officiated as the priest.

"I keep meaning to write the script for my funeral. Maybe all film directors should be stuffed and mounted on display in the National Film Institute," he said.

This great survivor can certainly dish out the vitriol. Stephen Spielberg may make the world's most popular films, Walt Disney may be revered for his cartoons. To Russell, they stink.

Disney is not spared: "The animals in Lion King look like American kids. I liked Popeye and Felix the Cat. They had character. But Disney is just Christmas card stuff."

Tragic ending for Afghan Film Studio

By Chris Lefkow
Agence France Presse

KABUL — Salim Shaheen, a bear of a man in a black leather jacket, sobs amid the debris of Afghanistan's last remaining film studio.

At 10:45 a.m. last Saturday, while filming a scene for his latest movie, a rocket fired by Islamic Taliban rebels came crashing through a window and killed virtually everyone on the set.

The film was ironically entitled "No Survival." The camera was running when the rocket landed and the impact of the blast has been captured on film.

It was the deadliest single strike on a day when Taliban militiamen rained rockets and artillery shells on the capital, killing 36 civilians.

Nine people in the studio died on the spot,

including director Hamyoon Sadozai, one of Afghanistan's best-known film-makers.

Shaheen, the burly 30-year-old owner of Qais Film Studios, the only private film production company still operating in this war-torn country, was on the set when the rocket landed.

The missile smashed a hole through a six-inch-thick (15-centimetre-thick) floor made of concrete and peppered the studio with jagged bits of metal.

Shaheen was thrown out of a window by the force of the blast but miraculously emerged without a scratch.

"I was stunned but not hurt," he said. "Then I looked into the room."

"There was blood everywhere and people were missing heads and arms and legs."

Movie star Sharif

Khairkhwa, 45, famed for his Sylvester Stallone-type action roles, was among the dead along with another top actor, Atiq Ullah Zahoor.

The heroine, a 21-year-old up-and-coming actress named Zarghuna, was also killed.

Actor Nasim Sahar was decapitated. His 11-year-old daughter, who had come to watch her father on the set, died too.

Noor Hamid, a cameraman described as a man with a "golden eye," was killed while another camera operator was grievously wounded.

Two other crew-members were killed while actor Wais Bahram is clinging to life in hospital having lost both legs and both eyes.

Another victim — a medical doctor and part-time actor named Yusuf — is in a coma.

Two of the dead were newly engaged to be married. Shaheen bends down to

sift through the broken glass and other debris that litters the floor and picks up a pair of items.

"This is all that is left of Nasim Sahar," he said holding up a mangled pair of steel eye-glass frames.

"And this is all that is left of his daughter," he adds, staring down at a girl's hair clip in his hand.

Breaking down in tears, Shaheen asked: "What did we ever do to the Taliban? This is the work of butchers."

"Artists in other countries have lives full of joy," he said. "But ours lead only to death. And we don't even know why we're dying."

In the studio garden is a heap of blood-stained arm-chairs, broken tables, shards of film posters and mangled props.

"I am ruined, bankrupt," Shaheen said. "I don't even have anything left to give to the families of the dead."

Bon Jovi — Squeaky clean rockers who try to look mean

By Belinda Goldsmith
Reuter

MELBOURNE — Hiding behind dark glasses and weighed down by leather, the American rock group Bon Jovi tried hard to look mean as they faced the Australian press.

Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi, the proud father of two children, kept his cool when asked if there was anything controversial about the band from New Jersey.

"You just don't know," Bon Jovi said with a knowing grin, sipping on his mineral water.

Oh, yes we do.

After 12 years in the international charts with hit songs including "Bed of Roses" and "Blaze of Glory," Bon Jovi now keeps out of the headlines for anything but his music.

The best gossip to come out of the U.S. rockers in years was the relationship and then marriage of guitarist Richie Sambora to actress Heather

Locklear, who stars in the highly rated U.S. glamour soap, "Melrose Place."

Jon Bon Jovi is married with children, keyboardist David Bryan is married and his wife has twins last year, and drummer Tico Torres became engaged this year to model Eva Herzigova.

The band's original bassist Alec John Such left the group last year and even that was not worthy of a headline, with the band declaring the departure amicable.

He has since been replaced for the time being by sessions musician Hugh McDonald.

"(Such) had grown apart from the rest of us and it wasn't particularly productive for the future of the band," Sambora told a press conference as the band's 1995 world tour to promote its album these days nears its end.

Having already played in Asia, Japan, Europe, the United States, South America, New Zealand and

now Australia, the group has only South Africa left before heading home for Christmas.

In Australia the band is being supported by Canadian actor Keanu Reeves' grunge/rock band Dogstar.

"It is good for them as they are so excited about the idea of being on the road and being in a rock band," Bon Jovi said.

Even Bon Jovi's activities away from the band make dreary listening. Torres is a keen artist and pilot. Bryan spends his spare time "flying" and with his family. Bon Jovi said he spends his spare time "sleeping."

Well, he can afford to, having made Forbes magazine's list of the 40-highest paid entertainment industry figures in 1994-95. The blonde rocker, once voted seventh sexiest man in the world, was rated 38th with his income of \$9 million in 1995.

But rather than sleeping his time away, the singer

has actually branched out recently and tried his hand at acting.

"It is a way to have fun, doing what I do in a different field," Bon Jovi said.

He stars in the romantic feature film "Moonlight and Valentino," written by Neil Simon's daughter Ellen, playing a painter who sweeps newly-widowed Elizabeth Perkins off her feet.

The film, being released internationally this year, also stars Whoopi Goldberg, Kathleen Turner and Gwyneth Paltrow.

Bon Jovi said he is making another film in January, an erotic thriller called "The Leading Man," directed by John Duigan who made "Sirens."

In this, or so the publicity blurb says, Bon Jovi plays a charismatic chameleon character with a magnetic affect on those around him, including co-stars Anna Galienna and Kamke Janssen.

Scientists tap brain hormones that enhance memory

By Karen Lowe
Agence France Presse
LOS ANGELES — Adrenaline-pumping experiences like war, rape and serious accidents crystallise memories, and now University of California scientists are developing drugs to stimulate or suppress recall.

Two scientists at the University of California at Irvine (UCI) say drugs can be used to stimulate and, perhaps, suppress the "stress hormone" produced by the amygdala portion of the brain that enhances memory.

The link between emotional stress and memory was established by James

McGaugh, UCI's director of Centre for Neurobiology of Learning and Memory while researcher Larry Cahill isolated the hormone's effect in humans.

New drugs now under development by pharmaceutical companies in cooperation with scientists could someday stimulate hormones to improve the memory of victims of Alzheimer's disease, brain damage and aging.

Conversely, Mr. Cahill plans to test drugs soon that block production of the stress hormones in the hopes of reducing the emotional impact of horrifying memories.

This could someday help, for example, police or rescue workers at a serious plane crash who are unable to shake the recurring, gruesome mental images of body parts, rendering them incapable of working, Mr. McGaugh said.

Between one and 14 per cent of the country's population of 262 million people suffer post-traumatic stress that includes serious mental ailments due to haunting memories from a traumatic experience, Mr. Cahill said.

And up to 60 per cent of the population have suffered some kind of trauma like rape, a crash, a mugging or even ugly divorces that

cause recurring nightmares and lingering distress, Mr. McGaugh said.

With available drugs as well as those being developed, Mr. McGaugh said, "it should be possible to block or reduce those strong and lasting memories."

"This is certainly going to happen," said Mr. McGaugh, who began using rats to test his theories on the relation between strong emotions and heightened memory some 40 years ago as a graduate student.

Drugs can take up to 10 years to pass through the research and development stage and the rigorous protocol of the federal drug

administration before they are marketed commercially, Mr. McGaugh said.

Shaping emotion and recall is the stuff of science fiction and producing a memory-altering drug poses ethical questions that Mr. McGaugh wants answered before the drug hits the market.

"Who's to say who should take a drug and how do we keep it from being widely abused by people who don't need it but want an edge?" Mr. McGaugh asked.

There is also the delicate matter of dosage, Mr. McGaugh said. At one level some experimental drugs now being used can height-

en memory but once the dosage crosses a certain threshold, they can be toxic.

UCI established the link between heightened memory and emotions by conducting a study in which one group of people was told a moving, slide-illustrated story about a critically injured boy who underwent surgery to re-attach his feet.

The other group was given a bland version in which the boy simply watched a disaster drill and went home. Half of each group was given the drug Propranolol to block the stress hormone prior to the experiment.

A week later, subjects who

experienced the emotional story without the beta blocker remembered more of it — especially the more emotionally-charged parts — than those who viewed the plain version.

Taking the experiment one step further, Mr. Cahill wanted to find out how memory would be affected if the amygdala hormones were suppressed. Not surprisingly, no one offered their amygdala for experimentation.

But through a colleague in Germany, Mr. Cahill found one of only several known victims of a genetically damaged amygdala. Tests showed that without the

stress hormone the memory was no longer stimulated by emotionally-charged events.

"I am in new territory," said the 35-year-old Cahill. "I credit myself with being an explorer. But I must be very cautious."

On the near horizon, Mr. Cahill will work with the Veterans Administration in Long Beach to give the drugs to women who have been sexually assaulted shortly after the attack and before painful memories have been deeply imprinted over time.

"This will be an actual test of our work," he said. "It has a high chance of success with a low level of risk."

Women with cystic fibrosis having babies

By Mary Esch
The Associated Press
GLENS FALLS, New York — Having struggled with cystic fibrosis (CF) all her life, Sharon Dingman knew pregnancy would be risky. Even if she succeeded in having a baby, she might not live to see her child through grade school.

After all, when she was diagnosed at birth with the incurable, smothering disease, she wasn't expected even to live through childhood. When she met her husband, John, medical advances had stretched the life expectancy for people with cystic fibrosis to 21 years. She was 21 already.

"All the accounts I had read about pregnancy and CF were very negative," said Mrs. Dingman, now 26. "The women often died within the first year of giving birth, or got very sick during pregnancy."

As she spoke, her fingers trailed over the silky hair and chubby toes of her infant son, Ian. He was born June 11 at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

The birth was celebrated as one of the first for a woman with CF in the hospital's 146-year history. Within several weeks, two more mothers with CF gave birth to healthy babies.

Dr. Anthony Malanga, head of pulmonary medicine at the hospital, said the successful pregnancies signify optimism

that CF patients can live full lives if their symptoms are carefully controlled through new treatments.

Cystic fibrosis is the most common inherited disease among Caucasians. One in 20 people carry the gene responsible for the disorder, and one in 2,000 babies have CF, according to Dr. David M. Orenstein, director of the cystic fibrosis centre at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

A few decades ago, most children with CF died before their second birthday, Dr. Orenstein said. Now the life expectancy is near age 30, with many people surviving into their 40s.

The disease causes the lungs to become clogged with thick, sticky mucus that provides a breeding ground for bacteria, leading to frequent infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Patients require continuous antibiotics to stave off infection, and daily physical therapy to expel mucus. They are frequently hospitalised when an infection sets in.

The pancreas also is affected, causing problems absorbing nutrients from food. Thus, people with CF are usually thin and often malnourished.

Therapeutic advancements include new antibiotics, mucus-thinners and anti-inflammatory drugs, improved methods of loosening and expelling mucus, and enzyme tablets to improve nutrition.

Joanne Washburn, 24, who lives 48 kilometres east of the

Dingmans in Hoosick Falls, had to contend with the threat of miscarriage caused by a weak cervix as well as the debilitating symptoms of CF.

"I grew up wanting a family," she said. "The doctor said it would be hard to get pregnant," because the thick mucus of CF hinders conception. A year after she married her husband Tim, she discovered she was pregnant.

Terribly sick with CF symptoms and unable to gain weight, Mrs. Washburn lost her first baby. She had another miscarriage a year later.

During her third pregnancy, she developed asthma and was hospitalised three times for lung infections.

"Toward the end of the pregnancy I got so big it restricted my breathing," she said. "They put me in an oxygen tent at 29 weeks."

Her son Andrew was born by caesarean section six weeks prematurely on June 20.

Caring for a newborn as well as herself is difficult, said Mrs. Washburn, who doesn't work outside the home. She spends four to six hours a day giving herself treatments with bronchodilators, antibiotics, steroids, mucus-thinners and chest-pounding exercises that help her cough up secretions.

Mrs. Dingman, who works full time as a respiratory therapist, and her husband, who manages a shoe store, said they rely on help from their extended families within the community.

Both infants tested negative for CF. The parents were offered genetic testing to determine the odds of passing the disorder on.

If both parents had CF, the child also would have it. If the father was a carrier of one of the 32 most common defects in the CF gene, there would be a 50 per cent chance the child would inherit the disease. If the father tested negative, there would be a one-in-500 chance the child would have CF.

If the mother's lung function is good, pregnancy doesn't make cystic fibrosis progress more rapidly, said Dr. Renee Samuelson, a high-risk obstetrician at the medical centre.

"But if pulmonary function is low," Dr. Samuelson said, "the stress of pregnancy can cause respiratory problems for both the mother and baby."

Mothers with CF may have trouble meeting the fetus' nutritional needs as well as her own, Dr. Samuelson said, and there is an increased risk of diabetes.

Medical researchers hope gene therapy will cure CF by replacing the defective gene with a normal one, Dr. Malanga said. Scientists already have constructed the corrected gene, he said, but have not found the right "biological syringe," such as a virus, to carry the gene into the patient.

Study finds fainting a sign of possible health problems

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press
ANAHEIM, California — People who faint face a substantially higher than normal risk of heart attacks and death, according to the largest U.S. study of fainting.

Although fainting can be a sign of heart trouble and stroke, these conditions did not appear to be linked with what doc-

tors call syncope.

The research, conducted by Dr. Ming Hui Chen and colleagues from the Framingham Heart Study in Massachusetts, was presented at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association.

"If you are young and don't have any risk for heart disease or stroke, your prognosis is really pretty good," Dr. Chen said. "But there is morbidity and mortality

associated with syncope, even if it seems to be a benign case."

The researchers looked at episodes of fainting among the 8,200 residents of Framingham, Massachusetts, who participate in the study and get physical exams every other year.

The researchers believe this provides the first accurate estimate of just how common fainting really is. They identified 801 episodes of fainting among

543 people between 1971 and 1990.

They said this works out to nine episodes of fainting for every 1,000 years of life. Dr. Chen said this makes fainting considerably less common than was suggested by earlier studies based on less broad cross-sections, such as people going to emergency rooms.

During the 19 years studied, those who fainted were 30 per cent more likely to

die from all causes and 39 per cent more likely to suffer a heart attack or die from coronary heart disease.

About one-quarter of the faints were caused by stress, the so-called vasovagal episodes, such as passing out while giving blood. In one-third of the cases, doctors could not pinpoint the cause. Other less common causes of fainting include heart trouble and strokes.

The study also found that

fainting is rare until about age 65.

Among other reports presented at the meeting:

— Doctors from City Hospital in Birmingham, England, found a strong link between infection with chlamydia, a common sexually transmitted disease, and stroke. They found that 48 per cent of stroke victims tested had been exposed to chlamydia during their lives, compared with 20 per

cent of people hospitalised for other reasons.

— An Aspirin skin patch, similar to those used to deliver estrogen and other drugs, appears to work. Testing on 10 volunteers at the Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences in Dublin, Ireland, found that the patch suppressed platelets, the blood cells that make clots. The patch may allow people to take Aspirin to prevent heart attacks without risking

stomach irritation.

— Scans with electron beam CT machines, which look for calcium deposits in the heart arteries, are proving to be an effective way to spot heart trouble. In a study at the University of California at Los Angeles, doctors scanned 519 people. The seven who died the following year all had substantially higher than average amounts of calcium in their arteries.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LIVING UP TO THEIR NAMES
By Norma Steinberg

ACROSS

- Only a bird
- Blow
- English
- "Dad's" author
- Scout
- Star's partner
- The present time
- Singer/composer
- Alcohol
- Times great
- Unlabeled mail
- and beyond
- Snap
- She died the day
- Under Fire
- French story
- Mrs. McGaugh
- Mr. McGaugh
- Mr. McGaugh

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- Shredded
- Kiss queen
- U.S. satellite
- Take off
- Avocation
- Phantom's creator
- Daisy
- Bad word on a
- On a machine
- , just good
10. Nonsense on
- TV
- Computer
- Put on a
13. The bird
14. Cope
- He comes from
16. Cactus or
17. Have a day
18. Picture frame
19. Corner

Diagramless, 17 x 17
By Don Johnson

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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Quake jolts Middle East

(Continued from page 1)

northeast Cairo suburb of Helopolis and one in the southern city of Assiut. A young Jordanian man broke his leg jumping out of a window and a woman in the Egyptian city of Suez did the same running down stairs.

In Saudi Arabia a Pakistani worker was killed when a chunk of cement fell on him in the Gulf of Aqaba city of Haql, while a five-year-old child died in nearby Bida. Twenty others were injured.

The earthquake was centred on the Gulf of Aqaba, off Dahab in the Sinai. It was felt in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Most of the other injuries were in Eilat, where 13 people were treated, mostly for cuts. At a student hostel in Assiut seven people were injured in a stampede to get out.

The quake, which lasted more than one minute from 6.15 a.m. (0415 GMT), woke people all over the Middle East.

Throughout Israel, frightened citizens called police, ambulance services and fire stations. In Palestinian-ruled Gaza city witnesses said people fled their homes.

But in Cairo, where more than 550 people were killed in an earthquake in 1992, residents showed little sign of panic, despite masonry falling into the street in parts of the city.

A four-storey building collapsed in the heavily populated suburb of Shoubra but it had been evacuated months earlier because building inspectors said it was unsafe.

In central Cairo, the top three metres of a minaret fell on to the street in a mass of tangled concrete and steel but no one was there to be hurt.

Israeli army radio, reporting from Eilat, said police

closed a road in the city where a crack 400 metres long had appeared. Tourists evacuated hotels and dozens of houses were damaged, water pipes broke and power was cut briefly.

The Israeli news agency ITIM said ultra-orthodox Rabbis in Safed had warned of an earthquake and special prayers were offered in synagogues on Tuesday night to ward off disaster.

At Eilat, electricity was cut, hotels were evacuated and some buildings were damaged.

A spokeswoman for the Sport Hotel said: "One guest, an Israeli man who was quite old, got frightened and had a heart attack" and died.

Dr. Zvi Epstein, director of the Yosef Hospital, said a 67-year-old Israeli was brought dead to the hospital after suffering from a heart attack. Guests at the hotel where the man died said he had carried his invalid wife down flights of stairs.

Mr. Epstein said a second man was hospitalised in serious condition, suffering from an asthma attack and 12 others were treated for shock, chest pains and other minor injuries.

"It felt like the walls were moving and the bricks were falling out, we wanted it to stop, and called to God please make it stop," said Eilat resident Judy Meshulam.

"It was awful, it was terrible. And now everyone is afraid there will be another one."

A spokeswoman for the Eilat municipality said that at least 50 houses and apartments and up to eight hotels had been damaged. The main road leading to the hotels was also cracked.

"Our engineers are checking the damage at the moment, but we think it will run into millions of dollars," she said.



A group of Iraqi women try to obtain medicine for their children (AFP photo)

Iraq lobbies to soften U.N.'s oil terms

By Leon Barkho
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Pressure is mounting on Iraq to accept United Nations terms allowing it to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for badly needed food and Baghdad is eager to find a compromise formula, diplomats said.

Facing acute food shortages and dwindling supplies of medicine, Iraq is hoping to have some of the U.N. terms allowing it to sell limited amounts of oil softened or removed, the diplomats said.

Iraq has repeatedly rejected the U.N. conditions for it to sell limited amounts of oil to pay for humanitarian needs as a violation of its sovereignty.

But diplomats say several countries, including mem-

bers of the U.N. Security Council, are pressing Baghdad to accept the conditions.

"An interesting dialogue is taking place. Iraq is desperate to buy food and medicine and the world cannot just watch as millions of Iraqis continue suffering from sanctions," said one diplomat.

Iraqis are struggling under crippling U.N. sanctions — imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait — putting the question of limited oil sales under sharper focus.

"Starvation may not occur as long as the government has the ability to provide rations. But once that ability is not there, famine will strike," Iraq's U.N. coordinator, Mohammad Zejari, told Reuters.

Denis Bouchard, head of

the Middle East Section at the French foreign ministry, met Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz and Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sabah on Monday in a bid to persuade Baghdad to agree to the U.N. terms on oil sales.

France, Russia and China, perceived as being more sympathetic among major powers to Iraq, have urged it to agree to the U.N. conditions, the diplomats said.

The Arab League was also trying to persuade Iraq to enter into direct negotiations with the U.N. to discuss its terms for partial oil sales, the diplomats added.

Recent events, including insight into Iraq's military machine by two senior defectors in August, placed Iraq under greater U.N. scrutiny. Coupled with

humanitarian needs these factors are apparently pushing Baghdad to seek a compromise solution with the U.N., the diplomats said.

The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire said more time and effort would be needed to complete its mission in the country.

U.N. inspectors need to sift through hundreds of thousands of written pages of data, part of Iraq's startling revelations made following the defection in August to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, the mastermind behind Iraq's military and civil industries.

"The general set back lifting of the oil embargo by

at least one year if not more," said a diplomat.

Senior Iraqi officials have hinted that they would agree to limited oil sales worth \$1 billion every three months if conditions they say violate Iraq's sovereignty were revised.

"There is a sense of frustration in Baghdad. They (officials) say the U.N. is paying no attention to their demands. It is merely dictating them," said another diplomat.

"In my opinion, there is chance that Iraq may agree, but not before some of its demands are addressed," he said. "Of course they will be happy if no curbs are attached but that is really far fetched at the moment."

Iraq would like the U.N. to reconsider its intrusive mechanism of sales and dis-

tribution of food and also give it some freedom to decide the export outlets.

It insists that its acceptance of any sales should not delay implementation of a paragraph in the major ceasefire resolution allowing it free oil sales once UNSCOM completes its mission.

Baghdad also wants any shipments of food to its Kurdish rebels to be under its supervision.

The Iraqi dinar steadied on Tuesday on news that Mr. Bouchard was trying to persuade Iraqi leaders to sell limited amounts of oil under U.N. conditions.

Baghdad traders said demand for the U.S. dollar slackened and food prices suddenly stopped surging when news spread of Mr. Bouchard's arrival.

One killed in Aqaba quake

(Continued from page 1)

centre of the main quake," the statement added.

In Amman, which also felt the quake, one man was admitted to a hospital suffering from a broken leg after he jumped into the street through the window of his house.

The Director of the Civil Defence Department in Aqaba, Colonel Omar Tarawneh, told the Jordan Times that although the quake was a powerful one, not much material damage was reported apart from some cracks and shattered glass in some buildings and hotels.

A receptionist at the Coral Beach Hotel in Aqaba said that there were some damage in the dining room but no body was hurt.

Mohammad Ghanem, a receptionist at the Holiday Hotel in Aqaba, said that the quake was strong but there were no casualties or damage in the hotel.

News agencies reported that at the time when the quake struck the Gulf of Aqaba, the power was out at the Natural Resources Authority resulting from a failure at the generating station in Aqaba that provides 40 per cent of the Kingdom's electricity needs, including some areas of Amman.

The power was later restored on support generators.

"People in Aqaba were terrified as the quake was very strong, but thank God now the situation is normal," said Mr. Tarawneh.

He added that the CDD in

Aqaba distributed pamphlets in schools and institutions to calm the citizens down after the Seismological Centre in Amman assured them that there was no more danger.

The earthquake, which was centred 110 kilometres South of Aqaba, was also felt throughout the Kingdom, Zuhair Al Issa, professor of geophysics at the University of Jordan, said.

"Several aftershocks struck the country but all of them were minor tremors, measuring 2, or 3 on the Richter scale," Dr. Al Issa added.

Asked if other earthquakes are likely to hit the country in the near future, Dr. Al Issa said that there was a chance that further quakes could occur but they would not be destructive.

"Nobody can rule out the occurrence of further tremors but they would not be destructive, as we assume, the main shock has already occurred," he added.

The last major earthquake and the first scientifically recorded geophysical movement in the region struck the area in July 1927. It measured 6 on the Richter scale, killed about 300 people and caused heavy damage in Jericho.

The quakes in the region are linked to the "Arabian Plate" which stretches from the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula to Turkey through the Dead Sea-Wadi Araba-Jordan Valley region.

Ruins in Jerash indicate that the ancient Greco-Roman city was destroyed in an earthquake linked to the movement of the Arabian Plate.

Abandoned children face grim life in Russia

By Susanne Hoell
Reuters

MOSCOW — Timia was four years old when he started living rough. His mother drank, his father was in prison. He slept alone in rat-infested cellars in the north of Moscow and had been sexually abused.

Lesia's life was not much easier. Her mother died of alcohol poisoning when she was nine. She went to live in the forests near Moscow where she ate berries and talked to animals instead of people.

Her language consisted of moos and meows and she hardly spoke a word of Russian.

"We never thought we could find anyone to look after her again," said Brian Brettell, a British social worker who now runs a

private children's home in the northern Moscow district of Yushnoye Medvedkovo.

"But we have found a family in the country which will take her in."

Timia and Lesia are two of perhaps hundreds of thousands of neglected, abandoned and abused Russian children.

But they are the lucky ones — housed and fed in a former state kindergarten now transformed by Britain's Waverly Trust charity into a children's home.

Maria Gaidash, a deputy in the State Duma Lower House of parliament, said recently some two million Russian children under 14 suffered physical or mental abuse.

"Up to 10 per cent of them die," she told the newspaper Nezavisimaya

Gazeta, painting a grim picture of violence, poverty and social disintegration in post-communist Russia.

Gaidash, a member of the centre-left Women of Russia Party, said about 50,000 children fled their homes each year and 2,000 killed themselves rather than face their up to their tragic domestic circumstances.

She urged the public and parliament to spend more money to fight domestic violence and to provide more help for children from broken or dysfunctional homes. The 170 shelters for abused and abandoned children in Russia were not enough, she said.

Brettell agreed there was not enough support for these children in Russia, especially in the poor Mos-

cow district where his children's home occupies a two-storey building surrounded by high-rise apartment blocks.

"There are some 150,000 people living here — and among them about 2,000 children who need help," said Brettell, a teacher from northern England, who previously worked in London and Glasgow.

Some 60 of them now live in family-like groups in the old kindergarten. They study in classes as small as five or six pupils, learn singing and computers, play games and run cheerfully around the big, now snow-covered garden.

Most still show signs of their former ordeal. Some look smaller than their age and Brettell said many had behavioural, learning and

nervous problems. There have been two or three cases of drug addiction.

The children themselves are reluctant to talk about their past. But they clearly enjoy their new life away from the streets and cellars, where they were often injured and abused.

"They help us here. It's nice. We have lots of friends," said Oxana, one of the girls in the home.

Economic reforms, which started in Russia in 1992, have led to poverty and unemployment. The welfare system is groaning at the seams and people in need often have to seek help from families and friends because the state can no longer provide.

Officials figure say 40 million Russians earn less than the minimum needed

to survive.

Brettell said his Russian colleagues always complained about the lack of money, but he insisted homes like his could be run on a reasonable budget.

He employs 62 people — social workers, teachers, cooks, cleaners and guards — buys food and clothes for the children, and organises outings from a monthly budget of about \$20,000.

"That is not much more than \$300 per child a month."

But nearly everyday he has to turn away children seeking a refuge. He said he expected the situation to get worse in the next few years, with politicians closing their eyes to the social situation.

"Politicians here put their head in the sand," he said.

Bosnia deal raises hopes

(Continued from page 1)

not the result of pressure and diplomat bullying.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, whose country has played a notable role in UNPROFOR, said: "The signing of a peace accord is not yet peace. Let us hope for success along this difficult road."

Mr. De Charette insisted Wednesday that France played a key role in the three weeks of negotiations in Dayton.

Paris "used a lot of weight, even at moments of crisis with our American partners, because we were committed to a number of precise objectives," he said.

These included a pledge to a unified Sarajevo, as well as commitments over refugees being allowed to return to their homes, and the exclusion of war criminals from holding public office, he said.

Paris was also quick to announce that it will send 7,500 soldiers for the 60,000-strong NATO peacekeeping

force which will implement the peace accord in Bosnia.

A foreign ministry spokesman added that France plans to propose a stability pact for the Balkans during the Paris peace conference, thought likely to be held next month.

Egypt and the Arab League welcomed the peace treaty.

"Egypt welcomes the agreement and we hope it will put an end to a conflict which threatened security and represented a violation of human rights," Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

The Bosnian people, he said, must be allowed "to enjoy their legitimate rights to sovereignty over their land and as a member of the world community." Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Musa underlined the "importance of trying war criminals who are responsible for the most horrible crimes the international community has seen, especially ethnic cleansing."

Anti-abortion forces supreme in Republican party

By Alan Elms
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The collapse of Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter's U.S. presidential campaign confirms the dominance of anti-abortion forces in the Republican Party.

Defenders of abortion rights cite years of polling data showing that a majority of Republican voters support a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy. But the party establishment is increasingly controlled by passionate opponents of abortion, many of them members of the powerful Christian coalition, and Republican officeholders at the state and national level are overwhelmingly anti-abortion.

"Our supporters don't do

politics every minute of their spare time. Weekends, they take their kids to baseball games and soccer tournaments. The right-wingers take their kids to political conventions," said Ann Stone of the Republican Coalition for Choice.

"They now have full control of the party in 14 states and partial control in several more," she said.

Mary Crisp, a former co-chair of the Republican Party, said abortion rights supporters had no one to blame but themselves. "We haven't organised ourselves. We stood on the sidelines and left a vacuum and the anti-abortion forces have moved in to fill it," she said.

Specter campaign officials said the three-term senator would formally end his bid for the Republican

presidential nomination on Wednesday because his fundraising had dried up. His withdrawal leaves eight official candidates in the race, all of them opponents of abortion, rights with varying degrees of fervor.

Among the top three, Senate majority leader Bob Dole, the frontrunner, wants to repeal the Roe V. Wade supreme court abortion rights decision through a constitutional amendment.

Texas Sen. Phil Gramm says he would end federal funding of abortion and of groups that advocate it and support actions of states to restrict abortion rights gradually. Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander says he is against any federal government involvement in abortions, either for or against, but he personally believes abortion is wrong

and supports the right of states to restrict the procedure.

None of these three has explicitly ruled out picking a defender of abortion rights as their vice presidential running mate. But that is not the case for two other candidates with substantial support of activists — conservative commentator Pat Buchanan and radio talk show host Alan Keyes.

Both have made opposition to abortion the centrepiece of their campaigns. Mr. Buchanan said last week he would "impose" his anti-abortion agenda on the nation. He wants to enact legislation declaring that life begins at conception.

Mr. Specter's withdrawal is the third disappointment in the past month for Republicans who defend abortion rights. The first came

last month when California Gov. Pete Wilson's presidential campaign collapsed in a welter of debt.

But the big letdown occurred two weeks ago when retired army Gen. Colin Powell decided not to run for the Republican presidential nomination.

Abortion rights activists had been thrilled that Powell, who said he supported a woman's right to choose, was riding high in the polls even among republicans. They said this proved conclusively where the true moderate heart of the party lay. Now, these voters have nowhere to go.

"I just don't know what to do now. If I had to vote today, the abortion issue would keep me at home," said Elizabeth Hager, a new Hampshire Republican activist who formerly

served in the state legislature.

In the 1992 presidential election, 30 per cent of Republican women deserted the party. Polls continue to show that far fewer women than men support the Republicans.

Moderates still want to press ahead with an effort to take abortion out of the official party platform and are vowing a fight at next year's Republican nominating convention. They pin their hopes on prominent Republican governors like Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey and William Weld of Massachusetts to lead the fight.

But the party is unlikely to go against the wishes of its presidential nominee. Most party insiders believe the anti-abortion plank is there to stay.

Klinsmann strikes 4; Eindhoven, Bordeaux win

PARIS (AFP) — Bayern Munich, who have not won a European trophy since 1976, had Jurgen Klinsmann's four goals to thank for their crushing 4-1 UEFA Cup demolition of Benfica on Tuesday.

The German striker scored his goals in a 20 minute spell that left the Portuguese side's hopes in tatters at the end of their third round first leg encounter.

Klinsmann, the former Spurs target man, struck in the 27th, 32nd, 43rd and 46th minute past Belgian goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme. Meanwhile Dimas equalised for Benfica in the 31st minute.

Benfica, like Bayern among a group of six former European champions still in this year's high-profile UEFA Cup, were never outclassed despite the score, but the 31-year-old four-star Klinsmann performance must have put the tie beyond their reach.

Klinsmann converted his second headed goal to round off the scoring after being set up by Mehmet Scholl, who linked well with Klinsmann throughout the match.

Scholl and Bulgarian Emil Kostadinov both hit the bar in the second half.



Werder Bremen striker Marco Bode (R) duels for the ball with Dutch PSV Eindhoven defender Stan Valckx (L) during the first half of the third round first leg UEFA Cup match PSV

Eindhoven against the German side in Eindhoven November 21. PSV won 2-1 (Reuters photo)



Jurgen Klinsmann of Bayern Munich raises his arms in celebration after scoring his first goal versus Benfica Lisbon during their third-round first leg UEFA Cup clash in Munich, November 21. Klinsmann scored three goals during the first half (Reuters photo)

PSV Eindhoven of Holland and Nottingham Forest of England, meanwhile — two other former European

champions along with Barcelona and AC Milan — both came away with home wins, although both left it late.

Brazil's Ronaldo kept up his goalscoring exploits as PSV Eindhoven beat Werder Bremen 2-1.

Ronaldo, 19, converted a ninth minute penalty after he was fouled by Bremen keeper Frank Rost to open the scoring. Bremen nearly equalised before the break when Heiko Scholz hit a post.

Marco Bode made it 1-1 when he dribbled past Chris Van Der Werden before beating keeper Ronald Waterreus ten minutes after the break.

Then 28-year-old Belgian international striker Luc Nilis, fed by Marciano Vink, scored in the 83rd minute to bring Eindhoven victory.

At the weekend, Ronaldo was in fine form as he scored a hat-trick for PSV in an 8-0 win over Doetinchem.

Frank Clark's Nottingham came through 1-0 against Lyon of France, the dramatic finale set off when defender Florent Laville was sent off for a deliberate hand-ball.

Goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta collided with defender Florent Laville in the 82nd minute and when Howe drove in the loose ball, Laville blocked it with his upper arm.

The Frenchman, booked just minutes earlier for a trip on Scott Gemmill, was shown the red card by Hungarian referee Sandor Puhl before Forest skipper Stuart Pearce stepped up for his spot kick.

Olmeta flew to his left to block but McGregor reacted sharply to pounce on the loose ball for his first goal since he scored at West Ham in January in one of his 12 previous substitute appearances.

Danish side Brondby, victors over English Premiership side Liverpool in the previous round, saw off AS Roma 2-1 after the Italians had gone into a first-half lead.

Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca opened the scoring in the 17th minute against the run of play with a header, but Rome fullback Fabio Petruzzi equalised just before half-time as he deflected an Allan Nielsen shot into his own net.

Ole Bjor settled the match for the home side when he took advantage of a defensive mix-up in the Roman defence to score a 76th minute winner.

Autopsy shows Olympic skater had extensive heart disease

LAKE PLACID (R) — Russian Olympic champion figure skater Sergei Grinkov suffered from severe heart disease that led to his fatal heart attack on Monday, the doctor who performed the autopsy said on Tuesday.

Dr. Francis Varga said Grinkov, 28, had a history of high blood pressure and that the two-time Olympic champion suffered from "severe arteriosclerosis" — heart disease.

Grinkov's "heart was enlarged more than what you would expect for an athlete," Varga said.

"In an athletic, vigorous young person who is asymptomatic, it is hard to detect these problems," said Varga at a news conference on Tuesday.

"Sudden death is often the first sign of heart disease," Varga said. "Unless there is an abnormality that causes pain, there is no way to detect this."

Varga said Grinkov's condition "probably would not have been picked up by a routine physical examination. It could have only been picked up by a stress test."

He said stress tests are not performed "unless someone complains of pain" and that "these athletes are tough, they fight through pain."

Varga said Grinkov probably was unconscious almost immediately after dropping to the ice, and that his arteries

were so blocked that "resuscitation would have been futile."

Unless the skater's condition had been discovered earlier and he underwent a bypass, "the probability of survival for him would be remote."

"It was only a question of time" before the heart attack, regardless of the activity, Varga said.

Varga, who said there was no evidence of alcohol or drugs in the skater's blood, said Grinkov's heart likely had been enlarged due to a lack of oxygen brought on by heart disease.

"The entire front half of his heart and the left side of his heart and the left side of his heart muscle was deprived of oxygen," Varga said.

A spokeswoman for the Adirondack Medical Centre, where Grinkov was pronounced dead on Monday at 12:28 p.m. local time, said in a news release that one of the skater's arteries "which feeds a major portion of the heart muscle, was virtually closed."

Varga, who performs autopsy under the auspices of the Essex County coroner's office and is director of pathology for the Adirondack Medical Centre, said Grinkov may have had symptoms of a heart problem, but may not have known what they had indicated.

Varga also said that Grinkov may have had a smaller heart attack six to eight hours before the fatal attack, which occurred while practicing with his wife, Ekaterina Gordeeva, 24, for a figure skating exhibition on Saturday in the professional stars on ice tour.

The two had skated together since he was 15 and she was 11 years old.

In Moscow, a source in Russia's Figure Skating Federation said earlier on Tuesday that Grinkov had never complained of heart problems.

"It was a real shock. He had never complained of any heart problems," the source said. "The worst I recall was some complaints of back pains, but never any heart problems."

Russia's independent television channel NTV said the funeral was expected to be held in Moscow Friday but the report could not immediately be confirmed.

Grinkov and Gordeeva were Olympic pairs champions in 1988 and 1994. They also won four World Championships, two European titles and the Soviet national championships as amateurs.

They brought pairs figure skating to new artistic and athletic heights with powerful lifts and stunning throws.

Married in 1991, they lived with their 3-year-old daughter Daria in Simsbury, Conn., and in Moscow.

McRae wins world title

PARIS (AFP) — Scotland's Colin McRae, once the wild man of rallying, took the world crown on Wednesday after realising there is more to his sport than just being blindly fast.

Over the last two years McRae has learned how to match his natural talent with the accelerator pedal with the maturity that keeps his car on the road — and not slithering off it.

Too often in the past, McRae would burst sensationally to the front of a race, and then equally dramatically fail to finish.

Now Britain's first ever rally world champion has found the mental strength and maturity which keeps him the right side of the fine line between brilliant driving and recklessness.

"Experience comes from doing rallies," said the 27-year-old recently. "But the mental attitude comes from within. I've definitely matured and I've got to the stage where I don't make rash decisions any more."

"I think I approach a rally with much more thought — now, and get my head round the small problems without making them big problems."

A car driver since boyhood, McRae has rallying in the blood.

His brother Alister, who also competed in this week's RAC, won the British Rally Championship this year.

"It was the first time I'd achieved it but, of course, my dad Jimmy won the series five times and my brother Colin twice," said the youngest McRae. "It was nice to keep the family tradition going."

Brother Colin notched his first world championship rally in 1993, the start of what proved to be a hat-trick of wins in New Zealand.

The following year McRae secured the first British victory in the RAC Rally since Roger Clark back in 1976. But it still wasn't enough for the Scotsman.

Jordan leads Bulls to best start in club history

DALLAS (R) — Michael Jordan helped the Bulls get off to their best start in franchise history by scoring six of the 36 points in overtime as Chicago rallied for a 108-102 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

The Bulls improved to 8-1. Their previous best record at the beginning of the season was a 7-1 start in 1992-93, the season they won the last of their NBA titles.

Jordan's two free throws with 2:30 left in overtime snapped a 98-98 tie and gave the Bulls the lead for good.

Jordan, who had forced overtime by blocking a Jim

Jackson shot, hit two more free throws with 29 seconds left to give the Bulls a 104-100 lead.

Jason Kidd recorded his fifth career triple-double for Dallas, finishing with 25 points, 15 rebounds, 11 assists and six steals. But the Mavs have lost four in a row and five of six games since starting the season 4-0.

Scottie Pippen added 26 points for the Bulls, while Jamal Mashburn chipped in 21 for Dallas.

"We got really fortunate they missed a basket at the end of regulation," Jordan said. "When we got into

overtime, we took better control of the game."

In Toronto, rookie Damon Stoudamire had a triple-double and sank two free throws with 1:04 remaining to lift the expansion Raptors to their third win in a row, 102-97 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Stoudamire had 20 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists. His key foul shots came after the Sonics had cut a six-point deficit to 98-97 with 1:12 to play.

Willie Anderson's 21-footer gave Toronto their final 102-97 advantage with 16 seconds left.

Oliver Miller scored 23 points and Anderson added 22 for the Raptors. Gary Payton had 24 points and 11 assists for the Sonics, who have lost three of their last four games.

In Denver, rookie Antonio McDyess scored 22 points and Dale Ellis added 15 as the Nuggets beat the Atlanta Hawks 107-99 for just their second win of the season.

McDyess, who added 10 rebounds, was 11-of-15 from the field for the Nuggets, who also got 12 points, six rebounds, and five assists off the bench from Jalen Rose.

Tied 83-83 with 9:04 remaining, Denver went on a 10-0 spurt to grab a 93-83 lead with 5:11 left.

The Hawks closed to 99-94 on consecutive three-pointers by Mookie Blaylock but got no closer.

Andrew Lang scored 22 points.

In Los Angeles, James Robinson nailed a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Portland Trail Blazers to a 109-108 over the Lakers.

The Lakers, who had their four-game winning streak snapped, broke a 106-106 tie with eight seconds left when Nick Van Exel dropped in a 10-foot jumper.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH
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WHO NEEDS ACES?

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The bidding: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

In response to East's lead directing bid of three clubs, Fishbein led the queen of clubs and continued the suit. East took the ace and king to complete the defensive book, and West had to decide what to discard on the third club.

At duplicate West might have had a huge problem, but at rubber bridge Fishbein did not hesitate for a moment. The ace of diamonds might or might not cash for the setting trick, but it was clear that another club lead would promote the queen of spades to the setting trick, whether declarer ruffed high or low. The problem was how to alert partner to the possibility.

Fishbein found a pretty solution. He discarded the ace of diamond. Since declarer had to have the ace-king in both major suits to justify the jump to four spades, East worked out the situation. A fourth club was led, and the queen of spades became the setting trick.

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| | PHILADELPHIA Kevin Costner in WATERWORLD Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45 | PLAZA Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi and Mahmoud Hamideh in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 | CONCORD CONCORD "1" Nadia Al Jundi, Farouq Fishawi and Mahmoud Hamideh...in A Woman Who shook the Throne of Egypt Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Sylvester Stallone...in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15 | MUSA HIJAZIN "Sumaa" in Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 p.m. Written & directed by Mohammad Shawaqfeh | In view of the travel of the actors abroad the theatre is closed until further notice |

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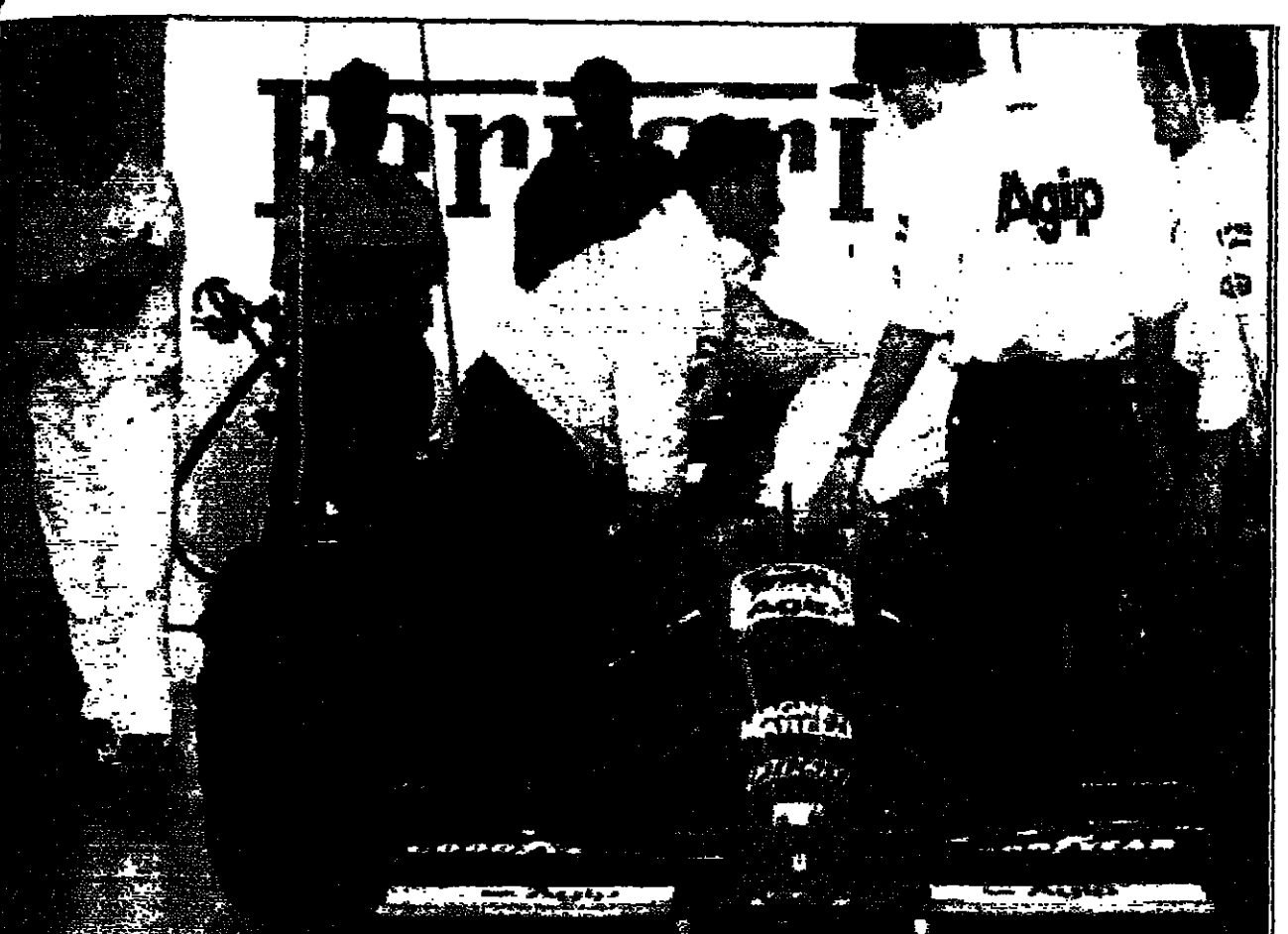
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German World Champion Michael Schumacher (left) watches his new Ferrari team check his Formula One car following a test drive in Estoril's race track November 21.

Schumacher will drive for Ferrari next season (Reuters photo)



Monica Seles of the U.S. returns a shot during a U.S. Open match. Seles played with a knee brace and has now withdrawn from the Fed Cup citing injuries (AFP photo)

Seles withdraws from Fed Cup

SARASOTA, Florida (R) — Monica Seles said on Tuesday she will not compete for the United States in the Fed Cup because of injuries.

Seles, who withdrew because of injuries from the WTA Tour championships which ended on Sunday, said she is not ready for tournament competition because of lingering injuries.

"I really wanted to play for my country at the Fed Cup matches in Spain and join the other members of the team," Seles was quoted in a news release from her spokesperson.

U.S. team members Mary Joe Fernandez, Gigi Fernandez and Lindsay Davenport are in Valencia preparing for this weekend's matches.

Billie Jean King, captain of the U.S. Fed Cup team, is expected to name a replacement for Seles, who said, "I have told Billie Jean to sign

Cuba, Taiwan win weightlifting gold

GUANGZHOU, China (R) — Pablo Lara-Rodriguez of Cuba and Chen Jun-Lien of Taiwan claimed gold medal sweeps at the World Weightlifting Championships on Tuesday.

Lara-Rodriguez prevailed in a tense battle in the men's 76-kg category, while Chen scored a comfortable victory in the women's 64-kg group.

The Cuban swept all three golds, with the snatch title going his way in a three-way tie because he was lighter than the others who matched his best lift of 162.5 kg — Armenian Khachat Kapantsian and Bulgarian Yoto Yotov.

Lara-Rodriguez managed 205 kg in the clean and jerk for an aggregate 367.5 kg, giving him a 2.5-kg edge over

Yotov who was silver medalist in both clean and jerk and overall.

Greek Victor Mitrou took the overall bronze.

A superb performance in the snatch section set Chen on the way to her golden sweep in the women's 64-kg category.

Chen lifted 97.5 kg to win the snatch by 5 kg from Hungarian Erzsébet Markov.

Chen also won the clean and jerk ahead of Bulgaria's Gergana Kirilova and South Korea's Choi Eun-Ja. All three lifted 115 kg but Chen won because she was lighter than the others.

Armstrong, an object of derision at the beginning of the season following his summer move across London from Crystal Palace, claimed his fifth goal in six matches.

A second-string strike

force of John Hartson and Paul Dickov came back to haunt Sheffield Wednesday boss David Pleat at High-bury.

Pleat, then in charge at Luton, sold Hartson to the Gunners for 2.5 million pounds last season and at the same time failed in a bid to land Dickov.

Both players claimed their first goals of the campaign — as did colleague Nigel Winterburn — as the Gunners shot down the Owls with a three goal second-half salvo.

Dickov was sent on at half time for disappointing Dutch winger Glenn Helder after Wednesday had recovered from conceding a goal through Dennis Bergkamp's

third minute free kick.

Bergkamp's ninth goal of the season came from 20 yards but Wednesday, who have not won in the League at Highbury for 33 years, took control with two goals in the space of 11 minutes.

David Hirst claimed the first after nine minutes when he forced home a far-post header after Waddle's pinpoint cross before Waddle's first goal for three months put Wednesday in front from ten yards after a mistake by defender Steve Bould on 20 minutes.

But the Gunners were level nine minutes after the break when Winterburn raced into the area and fired home a fierce drive before Dickov,

making his first outing of the season, rounded the keeper to put Arsenal back in front after 65 minutes.

Hartson, in the side because of Ian Wright's suspension, sealed victory when he nodded inside the right-hand upright following England captain's David Platt's cross.

Tottenham's victory saw them move up to fifth after just one defeat in the last 11 matches — but not without a hint of controversy.

Middlesbrough, led by 38-year-old player-manager Bryan Robson who came on as a substitute, fiercely protested to referee Michael Reed that Armstrong's 72nd-minute winner should have been disallowed for offside.

Pedroso's record scratched

ROME (R) — The World long jump record set by Cuban Ivan Pedroso has been ruled invalid by the Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL), which said on Tuesday that three Italian officials had been disciplined for irregularities.

A FIDAL statement said inquiries into the 8.96 metre leap, at the high-altitude venue of Sestriere on July 29, had shown that "irregular behaviour" by certain officials had influenced a proper reading of the wind speed.

The statement said FIDAL official Luciano Gemello had been banned for life for obscuring the wind gauge as Pedroso made his jump. Two judges at the meeting, Paolo Guglielmi and Denis Morino, were suspended for three years.

The FIDAL ruling has the effect of scratching world champion Pedroso's record mark but must be ratified by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF).

AMMAN — Egypt's Al Ahli Club Wednesday retained the men's title at the 7th Arab Clubs Table tennis championship after overcoming compatriots Al Zamalek 3-1 in the final match.

The title was Al Ahli's fourth consecutive and fifth overall in seven championships held so far. Their women's team has also dominated the competition and impressively retained their fourth title yesterday after overcoming Benazart of Tunisia 3-1.

While Al Zamalek had the chance and gave Al Ahli a hard time before giving in, Al Ahli's players had the advantage throughout led by Ashraf Subhi who subdued his rival Ashraf Hilmi 21-17, 25-23 to seal his team's win.

Ashraf Subhi had secured his team's opening match on Wednesday by beating Hisham Hilmi 22-20, 21-10.

Al Zamalek's only win was secured by Ashraf Hilmi who beat Sharif al Saket 21-13, 21-17.

Sharif Diya of Al Ahli then beat Ashraf Ashour 21-16, 17-21, 21-16 in an interesting match which drew wide applause from over 100 attending fans at the sports palace.

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat distributed the trophies to the top three of the

10-team competition as Al Ahli came in first, Al Zamalek second and Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli third.

The Saudi team had defeated Qatar's Al Ahli 3-1 for third and fourth places. In the game deciding fifth and sixth places Jordan's Al Jazireh came in fifth after overcoming Lebanon's Al Ma'ni 3-1. Al Jahra of Kuwait finished seventh after defeating Jordan's Al Orthodoxi 3-1. Palestine came in ninth and Sudan's Khartoum tenth.

In the women's competition Al Ahli finished first, Al Zamalek second, Tunisia's Benazart third, Jordan's Amman and Orthodoxi fourth and fifth and Lebanon's Homentmen sixth.

Organisers, the Jordan Table Tennis Federation, awarded the tournament's most promising player award to the youngest player, Homentmen's 13-year-old Lisa Barikyan, who showed the form of a future champion playing in her first Arab championship.

Al Hussein Youth City Director Isam Arida distributed awards to international referees who had officiated the matches at the six-day championship.

During meetings of the Executive Council of the Arab Table Tennis Federation, it was decided that the upcoming Arab Clubs Championship will be held in Algeria.

Arab Clubs Table Tennis Championship Ahli crowned champions

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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Arsenal defeat Sheffield Wednesday 4-2

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal moved up to third in the English Premiership on Tuesday after coming from behind to register an ultimately comfortable 4-2 victory over struggling Sheffield Wednesday.

There was also success for north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur as 4.75 million pound (about \$7.2 million) signing Chris Armstrong maintained his buoyant form to inflict Middlesbrough's first home defeat of the season.

Armstrong, an object of derision at the beginning of the season following his summer move across London from Crystal Palace, claimed his fifth goal in six matches.

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Hakkinen improving in hospital

ADELAIDE (AFP) — Formula One driver Mika Hakkinen is "improving every day" in Royal Adelaide Hospital following his crash in practising for the Australian Grand Prix 12 days ago, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday.

The Finnish driver sustained severe head injuries after his McLaren-Mercedes spun at high speed off the track into a tyre wall during a practice session.

The spokesman said Hakkinen was sitting up and talking, but would give no further details of his medical condition, saying the McLaren team had requested no publicity.

Kabariti: Syrian positions reflect political hypocrisy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti was quoted as describing Syrian policy as double standard and reflecting political hypocrisy.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Aswaq, the minister said: "We used to believe that we understand and comprehend the Syrian position but it turned out that position was unclear particularly when Syria attacked the Amman economic summit while displaying own enthusiasm in the Barcelona conference, which will handle political, security as well as economic issues."

Asked to comment on Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam's recent statement in which he leveled accusations against Jordan, Mr. Kabariti said: "Three weeks ago we heard Syria manifesting extremely negative attitude towards the peace process and putting the blame on Israel for disrupting the peace process in the region. But today we hear totally different views showing Damascus's flexibility and suggesting that Syria is ready to deal with Israel and resume the peace negotiations over the Golan Heights."

"We had believed that we understood the Syrian position as hostile to Iraq ever since (Iraq's) war with Iran and until the arrival in Jordan of Hussein Kamel Hassan. But we now hear Syria accusing Jordan of seeking to



Abdul Karim Al Kabariti

partition Iraq. Everyone realises that Jordan is totally against partitioning Iraq and seeks to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and enable the Iraqis to exercise their right to a free and dignified life.

"In view of this situation, we find no explanation for this double standard in the Syrian policy except by describing it as political hypocrisy," said the minister.

Mr. Kabariti denied that Jordan and Israel were holding consultations over a Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian confederation in the light of a recent statement by Israeli Premier Shimon Peres.

"If there were serious discussions on regional arrangements between the three parties they do not go beyond the economic dimensions."

said Mr. Kabariti.

The minister reiterated Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank taken in 1988 and said: "Jordan has no intention of going back on that decision neither will it discuss such notion. It should be known that any future relationship between Jordan and Palestine can only be discussed after the emergence of the Palestinian state and once the Palestinian people exercise their full rights on their national soil and after the issue of Palestinian refugees and Jerusalem have been settled."

The foreign minister confirmed that Jordan and Palestine have been involved in discussing a joint mechanism for enabling some displaced Palestinians living in Jordan to participate in the Palestinian self-rule elections due in early 1996.

"This subject was taken up with a visiting Palestinian delegation several days ago," Mr. Kabariti said. The Palestinians in question are those who live in the Kingdom and do not hold Jordanian nationality but hold two-year passports and are not registered in the Jordanian election registers as they do not hold family registration books. Only those who hold family registration books and registered in the voters registers are considered Jordanian nationals.

Israeli missiles wound 2 in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Israeli helicopters fired air-to-ground missiles just north of the occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon Wednesday to foil an attack, wounding two guerrillas. Israel's proxy militia said.

The guerrillas from the Amal movement of Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri were spotted by Israeli troops as they prepared to launch an attack from an uninhabited house facing the central sector of the zone.

Israeli army choppers fired air-to-surface missiles wounding two guerrillas, the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said.

Amal, in a statement issued in the southern port of Sidon, claimed its fighters attacked an SLA infantry patrol in the same area with machine guns and rockets causing casualties among their ranks.

After the operation SLA forces destroyed four uninhabited houses, Amal said.

Fishermen freed

Israeli naval forces on Wednesday released three Lebanese fishermen to representatives of the Red Cross after detaining them for 20 hours but kept their boat, an AFP correspondent reported.

The fishermen were headed over to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at the port of Naqura, on the international border, and returned to Tyre, 85 kilometres south of Beirut.

But their boat was held at Naqura, where the SLA controls a small port near the headquarters of U.N. peacekeepers.

Israel — which has imposed a partial blockade of ports in South Lebanon since February — seized and then released nine fishermen in the past two weeks, according to the head of the fishermen's union in Tyre, Mohammad Bawab.

Mr. Bawab charged that Israeli gunboats, which patrol Lebanese territorial waters, were now preventing shipping vessels from going beyond a one-kilometre limit from the coast.

"If they go further out the Israeli gunboats fire warning shots at them," Mr. Bawab said.

Israel initially has set a two-kilometre limit and said the measure was aimed at preventing seaborne attacks.

FIS is ready for talks with Zeroual

BONN (AFP) — In a clear acknowledgement of President Liamine Zeroual's success in remodelling Algeria's political landscape with last week's elections, the main Islamic opposition group said on Wednesday that it had written to him to offer cooperation.

Rabah Kebir, the German-based leader of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said the movement was "ready for dialogue with this government so as to help bring back peace" in Algeria.

The offer came in an open letter to Mr. Zeroual, a French language copy of which was released to AFP in Bonn. Analysts noted that it was the first time the FIS had so explicitly acknowledged the legitimacy of the Zeroual regime.

The moved followed last Thursday's election, boycotted both by the FIS and most other opposition groups, in which Mr. Zeroual won over 61 per cent of the vote on a turnout of almost 75 per cent.

Mr. Kebir's letter did not specify, however, how the proposed dialogue could take place as long as two top FIS leaders remained in prison.

The front has steadfastly refused any offers of dialogue with the authorities as long as the two leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadi, are not free.

The two were jailed in June 1991, six months before elections which the FIS was widely reported to have won.

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the first meeting of its kind in four years, Egyptian and Sudanese academicians and politicians on Wednesday traded accusations over the contested Halaib Triangle, but pledged to turn a new page in their relations and forget past conflicts if certain steps were taken by both governments.

"Our brothers in Egypt should stop accusing Sudan of terrorism," said Khaled Rahman from the Centre for Strategic Studies in Khartoum at a one-day seminar organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. "These generalisations should be put to an end."

"Sudan should publicly and clearly condemn violence and terrorism for any solution between the two countries," said Waheed Abdul Majid from the Centre of Strategic Studies in Egypt.

Although Egyptian and Sudanese speakers voiced hopes of better relations and agreed to meet again in

After the first round of polling, however, the military-backed regime cancelled the vote, sparking off almost four years of bloodshed which has left over 30,000 people dead.

In the letter, Mr. Kebir voiced his "permanent availability for dialogue, consultation and readiness to help the ruling powers and opposition define the causes of tension in our society."

He also expressed his "satisfaction" with Mr. Zeroual's stance after the elections, signalling his "determination to work to help all Algerians and to find their place in rebuilding the country."

The FIS is one of eight opposition parties — signatories to a "national contract" signed in January — which called for a boycott of the elections.

Although the group's apparent readiness to cooperate with the military-backed regime was a positive sign, observers noted that the most dangerous group of all had still not made its position.

The Shadowy Armed Islamic Group (GIA) has claimed responsibility for many of the bloodiest terror attacks — including several in France — and had threatened to kill people who took part in last Thursday's vote.

In one pre-election statement, the GIA warned that Algerians who used the ballot-box would speedily end up in another kind of box — a coffin.

Cairo, the morning and evening sessions were sparked by heated debate.

While Egyptian speakers accused Sudan of involvement in the assassination attempt at Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June, Sudanese accused Egypt of funding extremist movements in Egypt itself. The accusations were mainly spurred and followed by a discussion over border disputes.

According to the Sudanese version, the dispute over the Halaib Triangle has festered since 1956 when Sudan became independent. An agreement was signed in 1899 between the two countries but "there was no mentioning of borders," as Dr. Rahman put it. After the introduction of some amendments in 1902, due to problems that arose with two tribes living on the borders, some lands were added to Egypt and other territory was added to Sudan. The latter is now called the Halaib Triangle.

"There were no problems for 60 years until 1958 when Egypt sent two memorandums to Sudan," Dr. Rahman said. "In the first one,

Regent opens Yarmouk University facilities

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday opened Yarmouk University's Faculty of Education and Fine Arts as well as the university's Hashimiyeh Exhibition Hall.

During a tour of the campus, Prince Hassan cheered by students chanting national songs and support of His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince.

Speaking to journalists after the inauguration ceremonies, the Crown Prince said King Hussein telephoned from his residence in London to inquire about damages caused by the earthquake which struck Jordan and surrounding countries early Wednesday and was reassured on the situation.

Commending the distinguished level of Jordanian universities, Prince Hassan stressed the need for preparing qualified teachers at these universities and developing vocational and academic programmes conforming to national needs and priorities.

The Regent underlined the need to have wide national



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, waves to students during a visit he paid to Yarmouk University on Wednesday (photo by Boghos)

dialogue to discuss future issues and developments sweeping the world arena.

The Regent met with deans of faculties and chairmen of departments and con-

veyed to them the greetings of King Hussein.

He expressed hope that Jordan would be able to courageously and wisely withstand challenges through

science and knowledge and called on the universities to prepare programmes that would serve the Arab World and enhance inter-Arab relations.

Israel bars Tunisian diplomat from Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has barred a Tunisian diplomat from returning to Gaza to take charge of a mission he opened in the Palestinian-ruled area in April, Israeli foreign ministry sources said on Wednesday.

They said the decision was taken a few days ago "at a very high level," to pressure Tunisia to fulfil a promise to open an interests office in Tel Aviv and allow Israel to establish a bureau in Tunis.

"He was not allowed a clearance because Tunisia did not fulfil the full agreement to open a bureau in Tel Aviv," one source said.

Under the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal, Israel controls border crossings into Gaza.

Tunisia is one of the first Arab countries to start talks with Israel after the self-rule deal was signed.

The Tunisian representative Mohammad Al Ahnaf, presented his letters of credentials to the Palestinian National Authority in April to open the representative office and then left for Tunisia.

The Ahnaf was due to go back to Gaza later this month.

Foreign ministry sources said Israel was "disappointed" by Tunisia's failure to send a high-level official to the funeral earlier this month of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. They said Tunisia's ambassador to Jordan came to the funeral unannounced and at the last moment.

Iraq says it needs live-saving medicine worth \$200 million

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Wednesday it was in urgent need of medical drugs worth \$200 million to treat patients suffering from chronic diseases.

The official Al Iraq daily newspaper said the number of patients afflicted with heart disease, diabetes and cancer was rising, with more than 600,000 of them receiving treatment every month at government clinics and hospitals.

"The Ministry of Health has confirmed that the number of people suffering from chronic diseases like heart ailments, diabetes and cancer exceeds 600,000," the paper said, quoting an official source at the ministry.

"These need live-saving drugs worth \$200 million annually," the source said.

Crippling United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait have left many Iraqis desperate for food and medical supplies. Medical

supplies are available to Iraq but the sanctions mean it lacks the currency to pay for them.

Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak presented his country's case to heads of the United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organisation in Baghdad this week.

The ministry source said Iraq would honour any financial commitments resulting from purchases of medicine once its oil flows to international markets or any amount of its frozen assets abroad are freed.

"Iraq is known for its honouring of obligations with international pharmaceutical companies as its health import bill was worth more than \$300 million a year," the source said.

With its oil sales blocked by U.N. trade sanctions and overseas assets worth billions of dollars out of reach, Iraq is hard pressed to finance its medical purchases.

The U.N. offered Iraq a one-time sale of oil to pay for urgent humanitarian needs. But Baghdad turned down the offer, complaining the terms violated its sovereignty.

Ekeus in Oman

Senior U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus briefed Omani officials on Wednesday about his commission's efforts to dismantle Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Commission (UNSCOM), said he had discussed Iraq's disarmament with Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusef Ben Alawi.

The former Swedish diplomat said in Abu Dhabi earlier that Iraq was believed to be holding back information on its germ warfare and ballistic missile programmes.

He was to visit Baghdad on Monday and would report back to the U.N. Security Council on December 15.

Rabbani loses more ground in Kabul to assaulting Taliban

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan government troops Wednesday lost a further seven kilometres of ground southeast of Kabul to the Taliban militia, defence and military officials said.

The latest push forward by the Taliban means they have seized about 15 kilometres from the government in the past two days of heavy battles for control of Kabul's eastern flank, army commanders said.

The militiamen advanced northwest towards the besieged Afghan capital overnight amid heavy fighting, as government forces attempted to repulse the attack on the sixth day of solid fighting in the area, the officials added.

A ministry spokesman Amrullah, said Taliban fighters had on Tuesday night pushed forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of the strategic Bandi Ghazi village, which lies in a valley about 20 kilometres east of Kabul.

"It was a very heavy battle," he said. "Both sides used tanks, artillery and aircraft in the fight, and we lost about 10 men."

But he said government fighters were preparing for an "imminent" counter-offensive to recapture the lost ground.

Bandi Ghazi's fall follows Taliban's capture of the nearby Chakari and Khurd Kabul villages on Monday night.

In all, Amrullah said, government forces had been pushed back at least seven kilometres. Other Afghan sources suggested the militia, which seeks to topple Mr. Rabbani's government, might have advanced up to 10 kilometres.

Military analysts said the Taliban were trying to extend the frontline to the main road linking the besieged capital with the eastern city of Jalalabad and Pakistan beyond.

The Jalalabad road is the only route traders use to

bring basic commodities into the city.

If the Taliban cut off that road, they can control almost all traffic to Kabul. The militia has already imposed an energy blockade that has tripled the prices of firewood, coal and diesel.

The Red Cross estimates that basic energy is now too expensive for at least 70 per cent of the city population.

The Defence Ministry accused the Taliban of launching an air raid on the city in which at least two bombs fell on a deserted residential area in northwestern suburbs.

The bombs exploded on the side of a mountain beneath a strategically vital radar installation that provides early warning of attacking aircraft.

The raid follows one on Monday in which, authorities have said, 10 people were killed and 16 wounded when two bombs hit a crowded Shahre Nau market district in central Kabul.

Column 800000

Russian traveller in trouble en route to South Pole

NAHODKHA, Russia (AP) — Russian traveler Fyodor Konyukhov has run into terrible frosts that are causing the solo voyager trouble two weeks into a skiing trip to the south pole, his manager said Tuesday. Even though it is summer in the antarctic, the temperature has fallen to minus 60 degrees Celsius (minus 76 degrees Fahrenheit), slowing down Konyukhov considerably, manager Boris Pestryakov told the ITAR-TASS news agency. Mr. Konyukhov is carrying a sled with 135 kilos of food and clothing among other things. He planned to cover the 1,350 kilometres (833 miles) on skis from his starting point to the South Pole in two months.

Manila gives initial okay to death for paedophiles

MANILA (R) — A Philippine congressional panel has approved a bill imposing the death penalty on people who sexually abuse children, to curb a sex trade affecting 100,000 children in the Asian country, lawmakers said Wednesday.

The draft bill makes paedophilia punishable by a maximum penalty of death and fines of up to 250,000 pesos (\$9,600). If the offender is a foreigner and the penalty imposed is a jail term, he can be deported only after serving his term. Present law punishes paedophiles with a maximum of life imprisonment.

A foreigner can evade serving the penalty if the government decides to deport him immediately. "It is very unfortunate that some of the hottest tourist attractions of the Philippines are now children," said Sergio Apostol, one of the bill's authors, after the lower house committee on justice adopted the draft legislation Tuesday. The bill must be approved by the entire 202-member chamber and will become law once a similar measure is passed by the Senate and signed by President Fidel Ramos.

The Thailand-based End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT) group estimates the number of prostitutes aged 17 and below at one million, with 100,000 of them in the Philippines. A presidential panel has urged the death penalty to check child prostitution. Social workers say it has become an international trade patronised by tourists from Europe and other countries including the United States, Japan and South Korea.

Snake- charming show stopped by Swedish police

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (AFP) — A Sri Lankan snake-charmer hired to perform at Gothenburg's Ethnographic Museum was forced to cancel his show after police said his performance could result in legal charges, the museum said. The museum was initially told by police that it did not need special permission to have the snake-charmer make his four cobras dance out of their woven baskets to the sound of flutes. But a fax sent to police by a Swedish snake expert made them change their mind. According to the expert, snake- charming is considered grossly cruel to the reptiles and Gothenburg regulations do not allow snakes to be shown outside of terrariums and cages. The museum backed down on the live show and decided to screen a film instead.

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